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THE BADEN-POWELL GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Among The First People

1908-1936

Compiled and written by
G. H. Swinburne M.A., Dip. Ed. Melb. University.
For The Girl Guides Association of Australia.

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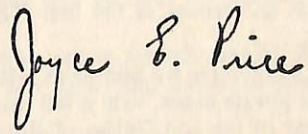
FOREWORD
"AMONG THE FIRST PEOPLE"

The Girl Guides Association of Australia will rejoice that the long recognised need to record its beginning has been fulfilled in this book.

We are indeed fortunate to have within our membership such an able historian and writer, with the gift of transmitting her unquenchable enthusiasm for exploration and research to others. Gwen Swinburne, our first Australian Archivist, among those who worked for the Federal Council, the beginning of our national entity, has inspired people throughout the whole country to be on the alert for records, stories, pictures of our past. I well remember her excitement when she heard from Tasmania that Dr. Teniswood had discovered *Peace Scouting for Girls* in a second-hand bookshop – a real break through in following back the trail to the start.

Her careful sifting and alignment of the "finds" provides us with a clear story, from the emergence in some States of those small groups known by various names and uniforms (the result of individual appreciation of the Baden-Powell scheme as it could apply to girls) to the establishment in strength of Girl Guiding in every State and the formation of a National Association ready to take its place as one of the founder members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

The detailed information on personalities and activities makes *Among the First People* enjoyable reading for all age groups. Examples of suggested action from "collect broomsticks etc. and have a go" to "compare the original with the present now and consider why changes have been made" if carried out by present Guides must bring to life for them this period up to 1936. It should stimulate careful recording of the developments since then as well as inspiring all readers to seek further "finds" to fill out our history from the beginning.



Lady Price, O.B.E., M.Sc.
Vice President, Girl Guides Association of Australia
Chairman, World Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXPLORING

Among the First People is based on histories of Guiding already written for most States and the Australian Capital Territory. Archivists in each State have followed on with keen research. They have discovered and copied documents, spoken with members of early units, followed clues, until we have been able to make a wider 'picture' of the early days of our Guiding, with fresh light in some parts and far more detail than has been possible before.

Surprises have sprung from every direction: I have sometimes resolved never again to use the word 'first' when compiling history – well 'Hardly ever!' Locally, perhaps!

Commonwealth Headquarters, London: Miss Thora Wallis Myers, Archivist, sent important items and letters not recorded anywhere in Australia.

Mrs. Wade, formerly secretary to the Chief Guide, sent extracts from Baden-Powell's letters and diaries describing his visit to Australia in 1912.

Hobart: In a second-hand bookshop Dr. Teniswood, a well-known book collector, discovered three copies of *Peace Scouting For Girls* by Lieutenant-Colonel Cossgrove, of Christchurch, New Zealand; copyright 1909, published 1910.

For about 50 years, apparently, no Guides in Australia had known about it, but following the trail back, the 'FIND' brought a fresh outlook to 'How Guides Began'.

With full approval of Baden-Powell for the girls' Movement in the Dominion, the book had been used in New Zealand, Tasmania, and a few other countries, until gradually replaced by the Girl Guide Handbooks by Miss Baden-Powell, 1912, and Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Chief Scout, 1918.

Peace Scouting for Girls is now a collectors' item.

Of the copies discovered, one has been presented to Australian Headquarters by Miss Beverley Taylor, one is at Tasmanian Headquarters, and one in the collection of Dr. Teniswood.

Please report any other that might be found.

Christchurch, N.Z.: Mrs. Tylee found and copied for us pages of history not known elsewhere.

Tasmania: Under the carpet in an old house, a newspaper had a column 'Adelaide Notes' with an account of the first 'Officers' Training Camp' in South Australia, 1920.

Sydney, N.S.W.: Forgotten for fifty years, a shield for competition was found in a cupboard in a private house, with a full newspaper report. Miss Agnes Baden-Powell, President of the Girl Guides of Britain, had sent the gift to the Australian League of Girl Aids, 1913. The League disbanded during the first World War, 1914-1918.

Queensland: A Boy Scout Centenary booklet recorded 1st Rosalie, Milton, Girl Scouts 1910. They were active for a year. (Quiz: 1957 – which centenary?)

Victoria: – late 1930's. Among a pile of old newspapers appeared a picture of 1st Hawthorn Company Baden-Powell Girl Guides, in an issue of the magazine *Table Talk.* They had been formed in 1911, and disbanded 1916-1917. This photograph was one of the first clues that sparked off research into pioneer companies.

Australian Headquarters, Sydney: An attendance list from the first Australian Conference, August 1923, at State Government House, Victoria, was brought by a niece of one of the members, 1975; this is the first record that the Conference had been held.

Hobart: late 1976. A carton of records was found for the years 1920-1925. They include letters between States discussing formation of Federal Council and references to the interest of Her Excellency Lady Forster, first President for Australia of the Girl Guide Movement.

THE PRESENT

The framework of the history of Guiding in Australia seems to be established; the call to discovery leads on – incidents, personal profiles, connections between events, are still to be explored.

Invaluable illustrated records have already been made for South Australia by Miss Betty Francis, who has painted decorations reminiscent of mediaeval manuscripts; in Victoria by Miss Freeman of Geelong; the A.C.T. has several. We can assume there must be many others.

From the FIRST WORLD CAMP 1924, which gave impetus to forming the Federal Council of Australia, Miss Robinson sent to Victoria a log book with photographs and illustrations.

THE FUTURE

If other outstanding books are known, or historical objects, *please tell the Archivist* at State or Australian Headquarters so a list can be compiled.

APPRECIATION

Deepest appreciation and gratitude are felt to all who have undertaken demanding work, with stimulating and pleasant companionship, to help to produce this history.

Full acknowledgement is expressed to several histories of the Girl Guide Movement; especially to authors Mrs. Mark Kerr and her daughter Mrs. Liddell.

Gwen Swinburne
1977

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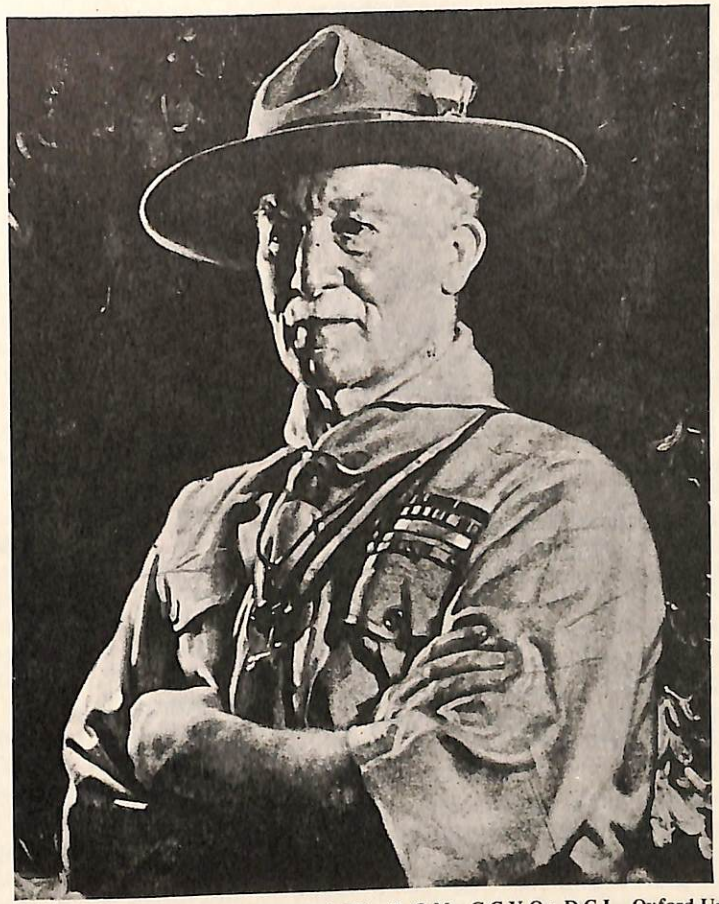


Lieutenant-General Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell; O.M.: G.C.V.O.: D.C.L., Oxford University, with highest awards of honour from Heads of State of many countries, and Freedom of famous cities of the world, author of many books, Founder of Boy Scout Movement, Founder of Girl Guide Movement, Chief Scout of the World.

To many millions, just

"B.-P."

1857 1941

A complete list of honours awarded to Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell is included between pages 89-94 of *The Wolf That Never Sleeps*, by Marguerite de Beaumont, and in various other publications.

CHAPTER 1
WHEN THERE WERE NONE

1857. Queen Victoria was Queen of 'England', Sovereign of the British Empire. Through her Government in London Her Majesty ruled the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and all the British Dominions beyond the Seas.

'Britain' is often used as a short name for the United Kingdom.

Ten years later Queen Victoria had acceded to the dignity and title 'Empress of India'.

During the first fifty years of B.-P.'s life, explorers travelling inland made known to the people of Europe, for the first time, enormous expanses of the other continents, especially of Africa. Governments of several countries of Europe conquered great areas of these discoveries and set up colonies in which their settlers could trade, and their crowding populations spread out. The British Empire increased until the Union Jack flew over one-fifth of the lands of the world, spread through every continent and ocean.

Governors, magistrates, commissioners, were sent to the colonies and territories to govern according to British law; settlers took up land, traders developed towns. Often their families went with them wherever the climate was reasonably safe for women and children to live. Regiments of soldiers were sent to protect British citizens, keep the peace, guard the frontiers, and in some countries to train their soldiers. The British navy controlled the seas, kept trade routes open for merchant ships, put down pirates and slave traders, rescued Britons in danger, sped with help in times of hurricane, flood or earthquake.

Larger colonies, as they increased and prospered, combined to become the great self-governing dominions within the British Empire: Dominion of Canada, 1867: Commonwealth of Australia, January 1st, 1901: Dominion of New Zealand, 1907: Union of South Africa, 1908-1909.

When we read later on that the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts was founded in 1928 by the National Associations of 28 countries, we can realise by recalling this last paragraph that Guiding was by that year far more widely spread than the number 28 suggests. Each self-governing dominion was separately a Foundation Member, but Britain represented nearly thirty other regions of the Empire where Guiding was already under way.

Nearly all these have now become independent nations. With a few exceptions they have chosen to keep their association with Britain and with one another as equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

The Queen of Australia, among her many other eminent positions, is Head of the Commonwealth of Nations.

France, Belgium and the Netherlands also governed large colonies which have become independent nations. Most of these are now Full Members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

ACTION Find a map of the world, issued between about 1900 and 1930. Note: the British Empire coloured red; and colonies of other European countries.

HIMSELF
"STE"

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, 'Ste' to the family, was born in London, England, on February 22nd, 1857. He had five older brothers, his sister Agnes was younger. Their father, who was a professor, died when Ste was three years old, and their mother brought up the family on a limited income. She was well-known as a pioneer in new ideas of education and taught some of the children herself in their earliest years. Their friends included many famous people who often came to their home.

When Robert was thirteen he won a scholarship from a private school to the famous Charterhouse Boarding School, soon to move from London to the country. He spent holidays boating, camping and exploring with his brothers. On leaving school, he passed an examination for the army so well that he at once received a commission in the 13th Hussars and was sent with his regiment to India.

Interested and thorough in all he undertook, he gained quick promotion and was sometimes the youngest officer in his rank. Off-duty, he was energetic in jungle-hunting and playing polo. He trained ponies himself and sold them to others, to cover expenses beyond his army pay.

Concerned for the welfare of his men, he planned to rouse their interest and encourage them to think for themselves – but expected high standards. Guarding the frontier against raiding mountain tribes, he trained them in scouting and reconnoitring; to see without being seen, and to understand what they saw.

AFRICA: During some terms of duty in the colonies of Southern Africa Baden-Powell earned from the Africans the tribal name of 'Impeesa' – 'The Wolf That Never Sleeps'.

He wrote several books about his experiences, and could sketch illustrations with his left hand as he wrote.

In 1899, when he had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, he finished *Aids to Scouting* as a textbook for the army. In that year Britain declared war in South Africa against the Transvaal, an independent republic to the north of the British colonies. The people of the Transvaal were descendants of the earliest colonists from the Netherlands, and were usually called the 'Boers' – the Dutch word for 'Farmers' – so the struggle became known as the Boer War. The six colonies of Australia, still governed separately, recruited volunteer contingents to fight with the Imperial forces against the Boers. In their khaki uniforms and wide hats they were well prepared for the conditions of South Africa.

After Federation, on 1st January, 1901, they became the forces of the Commonwealth of Australia. One unit was the Australian Bushmen's Contingent. As our own flag had not been chosen and authorised, they carried the flag that had been used by the Australian Federation League. One of these is shown in the museum in the Argyle Centre, Sydney. It is white, divided into quarters by a blue 'upright' cross; the Union Jack is in the upper hoist. Five white stars are placed one in the centre of the blue cross and one at the end of each arm.

Mafeking was a town on the open *veldt* with a population of about 600 Europeans and 7,000 Africans. Colonel Baden-Powell, with 1,000 British troops, was organising there a large depot of army stores when the town was surrounded by a Boer force of about 9,000.

The British had thought they could easily win the war against the Boers, and had not adapted their tactics to a new way of fighting in a strange country. They had some defeats and reverses at first, and the surrender of Mafeking would have been a shattering blow to the prestige of the whole Empire.

For 217 days Baden-Powell commanded the defence of the town. Without enough standard equipment, he had forts built and invented stratagems. His only searchlight was improvised in a biscuit tin and rushed from fort to fort to persuade the enemy that the whole town could be illuminated against surprise attack, or that the defenders were signalling to a relief force approaching. Some of his plans were bluffs with a sense of fun that kept the spirits of the people high while their lives depended on his leadership. The commander organised boys into groups with one of themselves as the responsible leader and trained them to be messengers and to help in many ways. Girls, too, were messengers, though not so definitely organised. He found the youngsters reliable, resourceful and brave – even more so than he had expected.

For seven months the Empire watched and waited, strained between hope and anxiety, until at last the news flashed through; May 17th 1900:– 'MAFEKING IS RELIEVED'. Tremendous excitement exploded. Baden-Powell became a national hero – medals were struck, his portrait sold, his name was used in many ways – even for the last gold rush in Victoria at Dunkeld.

The Queen promoted Baden-Powell to the rank of Major-General.

Queen Victoria had reigned for 63 years when she died at the age of 81 on January 21st, 1901. For the last three weeks of her life Her Majesty had held the new, additional title 'Queen of the Commonwealth of Australia'. Her son, Edward VII, King Emperor, succeeded her.

In Africa, the British forces over-powered the Boers, and in due course, the Transvaal became a province of the Union of South Africa.

TO PROVE IT: TRY IT OUT!

In England, after the Boer War, Baden-Powell found that *Aids to Scouting*, though written for the army, was used in some schools, and had been published as a serial in the magazine *The Boys' Own Paper*, which was popular with girls as well as with boys.

Sir William Smith had organised the Boys' Brigade, with many thousands of members, and asked his friend, General Baden-Powell, to advise him about more challenging and varied activities for them.

JULY 1907

To test his ideas, Baden-Powell planned a camp on Brownsea Island, off the south coast of Dorset, England. He invited twenty boys from different types of schools and jobs, grouped them into patrols with their own leaders; surprised them with 'Scouting' challenges, taught them by Campfire Yarns.

The camp was a grand success, and Baden-Powell was encouraged to write his next book, *Scouting for Boys.*

THE BOOK

1908 – January-February. *Scouting for Boys* was published as a serial, fortnightly in six parts at fourpence each (about 5 cents) so the boys could save up their pocket money. Thousands of boys rushed the bookstalls, and girls came in with the excitement: Baden-Powell had said they could! He realised that some people might think, because he was a general, that he was 'brain-washing' boys to join the army, so he wrote the chapters as 'Campfire Yarns'; and called the first one 'Peace Scouts'. He told the boys about famous people who had served their country and their fellow men. Some were soldiers, others were explorers, missionaries, doctors, navigators – heroes of peacetime. Raleigh, Drake, Captain John Smith, Captain Cook, Lord Clive, Speke, Baker, Livingstone, Davis, Franklin, Ross, Scott, Shackleton are some he named.

Then; 'There have been women scouts of the nation too, such as Grace Darling who risked her life to save a ship-wrecked crew; Miss Kingsley, the African explorer; Lady Lugard in Africa and Alaska, and many devoted lady missionaries and nurses in all parts of our Empire. These have shown that girls, as well as boys, may well learn scouting while they are young and so be able to do useful work in the world as they grow older . . . '. Promptly the girls did just that; at home and abroad.

In Australia, as soon as *Scouting for Boys* arrived, some girls seized on it and went into action; either in their own groups, with mystery the name of the game, or encouraged by adults. And, after April, when the weekly magazine, *The Scout,* appeared, they could read that too.

ACTION Some famous people are named in Camp Fire Yarn 1. Find out more about some of them and decide why they were chosen.

DECIDE Who might have been chosen if the book had been written now?

CHIEF SCOUT

Baden-Powell had intended only to open a fresh outlook for clubs already formed; actually swarms of excited youngsters who had never joined a club set off 'Scouting' on their own accord – sometimes more enthusiastically than wisely. It was soon clear that a new separate organisation was urgently needed, lest the scheme associated with Baden-Powell's name should get out of hand with a poor public image, and so that the boys might find the good leadership which in their own way they were eagerly seeking.

So, by the middle of that first year, the author of *Scouting for Boys* became THE FOUNDER of the Boys Scouts Association. He donated all profits from his book towards expenses. Translations were published as Scout Associations were formed in other countries. Many friends rallied to help.

As soon as possible, wherever throughout the Empire Scouting had sprung up, Baden-Powell appointed a Commissioner or Chief Scout for the region to organise the Movement. In New Zealand, for instance, Major Cossgrove, of Christchurch, soon to be Lieutenant-Colonel, became Chief Scout for the Dominion.

The Founder himself was for all, everywhere – 'B.-P.', THE Chief Scout.

BOYS ONLY????

The new Association was firmly *BOYS ONLY*. The Founder had clear reasons, as he wrote in a later report. He had not encouraged girls to take up Scouting because – "The training laid down by Boy Scouts, though it applies pretty generally to all boys whether from Eton or East Ham' (a slum district in London) 'does not apply to all girls, even when altered in details to suit the sex. With girls it has to be administered with great discrimination . . . it is for this reason I have so far refrained from encouraging girls to take up Scouting . . . the main object is to give them ALL the ability to be better mothers and "leaders" for the next generation . . . Therefore, to carry the training to best effect it is essential that good supervision be arranged for . . . ' (an adult aged at least 21 in charge from THE BEGINNING). 'A scheme might be started either independently or possibly as Cadet Branch or feeder to the Territorial Organisation of Voluntary Aid . . . .'

Baden-Powell must have had to answer many queries and suggestions, but on the whole adults agreed with him, and eventually, after some experiments, this was how it all worked out.

The girls were disappointed but undaunted.

CHAPTER 2

SOME UNDAUNTED

'The Girl Guide Movement has the distinguishing feature that it started itself. Girls took up Scouting along with their brothers, and we subsequently adapted it to their needs and organised it as a separate Movement.' So wrote 'B.-P.' looking back. They did not really even need to have brothers.

And So It All Happened in Australia

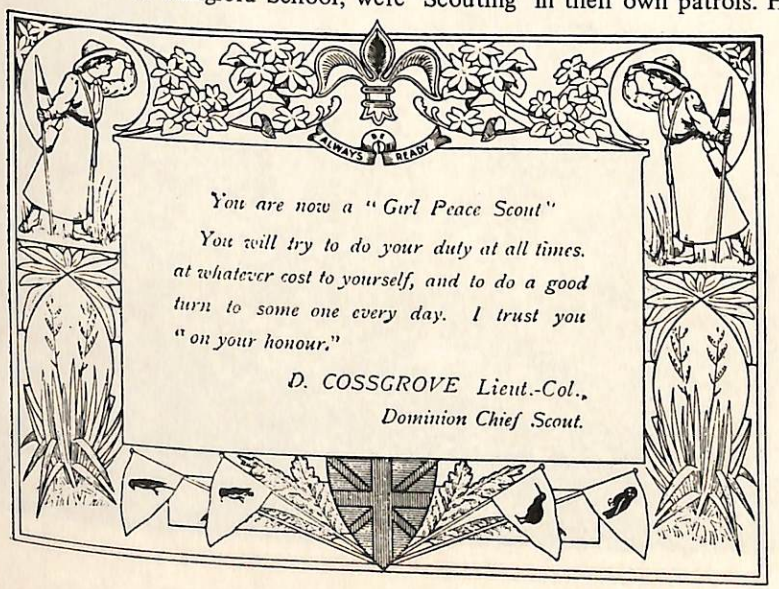
Before the Girl Guides Association was formed in Britain in May, 1910, various names were chosen. 'Guide' has not been the only title for Baden-Powell girls' units, as 'Scout' has been for the boys. Glance through *Trefoil Round the World,* or earlier reports from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Early organised associations were: 'Peace Scouting for Girls' in New Zealand, branching to Tasmania with one unit in Victoria and quite separately, 'The Australian League of Girl Aids' in New South Wales.

Though numbers were very small, even in proportion to the populations, compared with the many hundreds, even thousands of girls who were 'Scouting' in Britain, the associations were recognised by Baden-Powell and accepted in the countries concerned by the Boy Scouts, who sometimes suggested the plan, and helped them in many ways.

NEW ZEALAND

By September, 1908, Muriel, the youngest daughter of Major Cossgrove, and her friends at Rangiora School, were 'Scouting' in their own patrols. Her



father encouraged them, enrolled twenty-four with the title 'Girl Peace Scouts', appointed Miss Keith, M.A., to be the 'Scout Mistress', and began to write a special book for them. He received permission from Baden-Powell to use any ideas he needed from *Scouting for Boys.* Mrs. Cossgrove, with a committee of ladies to give general support, wrote the chapters on homecraft and nursing.

The book, *Peace Scouting for Girls,* is dedicated by permission to the Hon. Ethne Mahine Plunkett, daughter of the Governor-General of New Zealand. It is about the same size as *Scouting for Boys* but, unfortunately, publication was delayed by the illness of a friend who was helping with the production.

TASMANIA

About a year later, Sir Harry Barron, Governor of Tasmania, corresponded with Lieutenant-Colonel Cossgrove. Through the interest of Lady Barron and the initiative of Mrs. Henry Dobson, president of a committee, three patrols of Girl Peace Scouts were enrolled in the Hobart area. Mrs. Hume was leader of 1st Lindisfarne. Mrs. Dobson was already president of the Tasmanian branch of the Imperial Ministering Children's League in which boys and girls pledged themselves to find ways to help other people. Her husband had been Premier of the State and she had wide community interests. As delegate for Tasmania to the Australian Conference, she hoped that the National Council of Women might promote the Baden-Powell Movement for girls in the other States.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The Australian League of Girl Aids was organised in Sydney by Mrs. Hugh Dixson, who was prominent in the Australian Women's Association, president of the League of Empire, and vice-president of the Boy Scouts Association. Some units of the 'Aids' met at 'Abergeldie', Dulwich Hill, a Dixson home with large grounds, now an interest of the National Trust. Their badge was a map of Australia with a scroll 'Be Ready'; their Promise and Law were adapted from the Boy Scouts; emblems were chosen from the wild life of the bush.

When Mrs. McFie, with several daughters, moved from Sydney, they formed a unit at Powelltown in Victoria, not far from the present Guide property of Britannia Park. They wore blue skirts and white blouses; ties were mauve for their emblem, the fringed lily. Their special interest was First Aid to the injured.

BEYOND THE ASSOCIATIONS

The year 1908 was only seven years away from the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia, January 1st, 1901, when six separate colonies had become the States of 'One Nation'. The population of the whole continent was only about four and a half million. Interstate travel was by sea and by railway, except to Tasmania and Western Australia; the "Transcontinental" was nearly ten years in the future. A letter from Perth to Brisbane (stamp – one penny [1½ cents]) could take well over a week; an aeroplane was an exhibition stunt overseas; motor cars were coming into use but seldom for long distances.

The Movement 'started itself' in centres far apart, and after the Girl Guides Association was established in May, 1910, several groups registered separately in London. Not knowing of one another, the pioneers in two or three States thought in all good faith, that their own early 'troop' must be the first in Australia. Later, the news came through.

In South Australia, towards the end of 1909, some girls from Nailsworth wrote to the State Commissioner of Boy Scouts to ask if they could form a Scout Patrol. The plan was not approved at the time – it is suggested because of the lack of a leader – but later on each one who signed the letter became known through the Girl Guide Movement.

In Victoria, Wynifred Gipps of South Yarra, when only seventeen, led patrols of girls for 'Scouting'. Friends who helped her, advised her not to use the name 'Scout' so they decided to be 'Florence Nightingale Girl Aids'. The name is a coincidence; there was no link with New South Wales. Wynifred was great-niece to the former Governor George Gipps, after whom Gippsland is named. Her father and brother were officers in the army. She wore a white uniform and a peaked cap especially designed for her.

In Queensland, at Milton, 1st Rosalie Girl Scouts met for about a year, and were criticised for wearing uniform 'too like the boys'. They helped the local fire brigade to raise money for their first motor vehicle.

CHAPTER 3

THEY ARE COMING!

BRITAIN 1909

'Although I have so far refrained from encouraging girls to take up Scouting . . . !' Baden-Powell.

SEPTEMBER 4th – NATIONAL RALLY OF BOY SCOUTS:
CRYSTAL PALACE, LONDON.

The Crystal Palace was a great building of steel and glass, halls with domed roof, erected in Hyde Park, London, 1851, for the first International Exhibition. '. . . no building like it had ever been seen, and no such collection of arts and manufacturers had ever been brought together'.

After the Exhibition, the Crystal Palace was moved to a site in South London, near a sports ground, suitable for large assemblies inside or outside according to the weather: a wise choice for the rally as half way through the day the rain poured down. This happened so often on similar occasions in the future that 'Chief's weather' became a tag. We had it sometimes in Australia – but that belongs to later years. The Crystal Palace burnt down in 1936.

On that day, 4th September, 1909, 11,000 Boy Scouts came crowding to the Rally. 'A bit of a bombshell' said the Chief, amazed: still more amazed when a few girls also marched along; wearing 'scout' uniform with skirts. (Some of them had once picketed Baden-Powell's London house; two who were there came afterwards to Australia.)

When the Chief Scout, at their request, spoke to the girls, not sure that he was pleased, Marguerite de Beaumont, Patrol Leader, asked him with due formality to recognise 'Girl Scouts' within his Association.

Impressed by their sincerity, Baden-Powell invited Marguerite to visit him at his home, and began to enquire into what had been happening. He found that 6,000 girls had already registered as Scouts, and he realised that there would be many others. One idea had been to sign letters with initials only and surname. A few had already appeared at local Boy Scout rallies.

'B.-P.' – OUR LEADER

The Chief Scout decided to recognise and lead the girls' movement that had indeed 'started itself' in his name and by his plan. By the end of the year he had chosen for them the name 'Guides', recalling a famous regiment in India whose soldiers were prepared for any emergency; had written two pamphlets to adapt the Scout programme for girls; made temporary arrange-

ments for them to be registered on a special list at Scout Headquarters, and persuaded his sister, Agnes, to begin to organise the separate Movement.

For the Girl Guides' badge, he chose the Trefoil, distinct from the Boy Scout badge, but a similar symbol of the Threefold Promise; three parts in one design with the initials 'B.P.G.G.' to identify his own Association. The Girl Guides were trusted with the motto of the Boy Scouts – 'Be Prepared'.

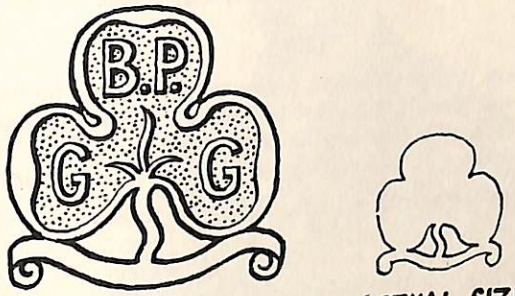
ACTION Think of other ideas called to mind by the name 'Guide'.

A BARONET DECIDES: FULL-TIME FOR THE YOUNGSTERS

In October, King Edward VII conferred baronetcy on the Founder, and early the next year approved the crucial decision of General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, K.C.V.O., K.C.B., Bt. to resign from the army and devote his whole time to the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements.

CHAPTER 4

WE ARE HERE!



ACTUAL SIZE

TENDERFOOT (PROMISE) BADGE OF 1910 (BRASS)

BADEN-POWELL GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL FOUNDATION – MAY 1910

President	Miss Agnes Baden-Powell
Committee	A few friends and well-known women
Staff	Miss Margaret Macdonald, transferred from Boy Scout office
Membership	About 8,000 already waiting
Funds	£100/0/0 ($200.00) advanced by B.-P.
Headquarters	One room

SIXTY-SIX YEARS LATER

1976
WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS
MEMBER COUNTRIES – 94
MEMBERS: 7,500,000
(Seven and one half million approximately and increasing steadily.)

UNIFORM

An early uniform list for Baden-Powell Girl Guides gives, for 'officers' – 'ordinary walking dress'. Although it was not compulsory, they probably wore navy blue. Navy blue was so popular at that time that a great many people had one outfit in that colour. Children, boys and girls, wore sailor suits; schoolgirls,

tunics or skirts; and adults, coat and skirt costume that could readily become 'uniform' by similar accessories: shirt blouse, belt, tie and badges. The hat could vary from 'plain', to navy felt turned up at one side with cock's feather.

For Girl Guides, uniform dress was NAVY BLUE only.

LIGHT BLUE was chosen as their special colour for ties and general possessions.

PREPARED!

The uniform tie was a triangle, to be used as a bandage for first-aid. It was folded as a 'narrow' bandage, doubled lengthways; a sailor knot was tied for the front, and a reef knot with the loose ends under the collar, at the back. The doubled end should hang about 1½-2 inches (3-5 cms) above the belt.

Judgement was needed for Guides of different heights!

ACTION Try it.

It took courage to appear in uniform.

'Giddy Gouts' was one of several greetings that might be expected from small boys.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

HOME NOTES

This weekly magazine arranged for two pages to be the official organ of the Girl Guides, paying £4-4-0 per week on condition that one article was written by the president. The cover design would be altered to include Girl Guides, with a picture once a quarter and illustrations, as needed, on the special pages. The $8.40 a week was the main income for the Association.

Home Notes had a very large circulation in Australia.

In the Issue of August 18th, 1910, appeared:

'I understand that Girl Guides are much wanted in Australia. A friend writes "We are anxious to do some good to the girls of the place, and this Association seems to be the means to do it . . . Our object is to take up the young girls of the poorer and working classes from the ages of twelve to sixteen, to teach them something useful in their leisure hours, such as cooking, sewing, first aid, etc., and giving them some healthy amusements as well as to keep them out of harm's way, particularly from the dangers of wandering aimlessly about the streets and falling into evil ways before they have the sense to know the meaning of the danger they run . . . **One thing we wish to avoid is the imitating of boys' manner and dress. We are anxious to make it purely a womanly movement.**"

N.B. Companies of B.-P. Girl Guides are being started in Brisbane and Queensland and also in Melbourne.

AGNES BADEN-POWELL.'

Miss Agnes Baden-Powell

CONTACT

HOME NOTES – 23rd August, 1910.

'Miss Baden-Powell had the great pleasure of welcoming to our shores the Head of the Girl Guides* in Sydney, Mrs. Hugh Dixson. Both organisers evinced the keenest interest in the success of the Movement on the opposite sides of the globe, and were mutually eager to assist one another's undertakings.

The B.-P. Girl Guides were presented with a handsome gift by Mrs. Hugh Dixson, and as she is very shortly returning to Australia, Miss Baden-Powell has begged her to convey to the Australian girls a present in the shape of a large framed portrait of General Sir R. Baden-Powell, the Founder of the Girl Guide Movement.'

*NOTE: Although in this article Miss Baden-Powell uses the title 'Girl Guides' the New South Wales girls were still called 'Aids'.

Where is the portrait, one wonders? Later an enquiry was reported from Wangaratta, Victoria, but though instructions were sent, no result has been recorded.

A GIRLS' OWN BOOK

By June 1910 *Peace Scouting for Girls* was published in Christchurch, New Zealand. About the same size as *Scouting for Boys* the book is fully orientated to New Zealand with stories of pioneers, patrol names, code words, hints for using fibres of native flax for lashing camp gadgets. One photograph shows a Girl Peace Scout helping an elderly friend with bundles across a rough paddock – not across a busy street. Many other photographs and line drawings illustrate care of children, judo, camping, care of animals, all the variety of activities. One shows Girl Guides of Scotland.

The outlook is world-wide! Scout mistresses of other countries are advised emphatically to write their own sections, such as for woodcraft, stories, and their flag. The words of 'God Save the King', and 'God Bless The Prince of Wales' are followed by a national song for each of the great dominions of the Empire; 'Song of Australia' was chosen. Copies of *Peace Scouting for Girls* were presented to the Chief Scout and Miss Baden-Powell. Books were sent at once to the Girl Peace Scouts in Tasmania, and to units near Johannesburg, South Africa. Enquiries came from the U.S.A., from publishers asking permission to adapt the volume, and from two State Secretaries, and from Japan, from clergymen of a Church of England mission at Yokohama and Tokyo. One unit is recorded at Brunswick, Victoria.

Peace Scouting for Girls is now a collector's item. Of the four copies discovered more than fifty years later, one has been presented to Australian Headquarters by Miss Beverley Taylor, of Tasmania.

SELF DEFENCE
from
Peace Scouting for Girls.

THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES & GIRL SCOUTS

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

The Fifth World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts has accepted the application of

The Girl Guides Association
Australia

and has agreed to recognise it as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

It is understood that this Organisation will adhere to the principles and methods of Guiding and Girl Scouting as outlined by their Founder Lord Baden-Powell and will abide by the provisions of the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the World Association.

1928.

SIGNED

Baden-Powell of Gilwell
FOUNDER

Olave Baden-Powell
WORLD CHIEF GUIDE

Rose Kerr
CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD COMMITTEE

Katherine Furse
DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD BUREAU

CHAPTER 5

AUSTRALIA JOINS IN

Victoria

As soon as she knew of the Association, Wynifred Gipps applied for registration with the Girl Guides. The president replied that she was too young to be recognised as a Baden-Powell Girl Guide captain, but as a committee supported her, certain instructions were sent and correspondence continued.

The Florence Nightingale Girl Aids met in South Yarra at the statue of Queen Victoria in the Domain, or at St. Chad's Church, now replaced by St. Martin's Theatre. Sometimes they explored across the open heath country behind Hampton and Cheltenham. They had a bugler and a drummer. Boy Scouts wrote a parody from a song in the musical play 'Our Miss Gibbs'.

By early 1911, the Florence Nightingale Girl Aids changed to blue uniforms, and, because they had the support of a committee, they were permitted to use the name 'Baden-Powell Florence Nightingale Girl Guides', though the president thought the name was 'rather long'.

Quite separately, in Hawthorn, Victoria, Miss Louie Kerr had helped her fiance with his troop of Boy Scouts until he died of an illness. Her brother-in-law, Mr. Stevens, owned a catering business connected with a confectionery shop – a gathering spot on the way home from school: 'lolly shop' to the youngsters then – now, 'milk bar'. Miss Kerr wrote to Miss Baden-Powell who gave her permission to become a captain of Baden-Powell Girl Guides, and wrote out for her the Law and instructions with a warm greeting.

A notice in the *Hawthorn and Camberwell Citizen* invited those who wished to become Girl Guides to meet at "434" Burwood Road on February 6th, 1911. Reassurances about conduct were added. *434,* the present address is used; street numbers have been changed. A large umbrella, striped red and white, swung out from the upper storey, high above the street. The splash of colour was a treasured landmark; one of the last to survive from earlier years when every business in the town displayed a sign.

Mr. and Mrs. Aylen, and daughter Rosa, aged thirteen, were hosts for the evening in their home behind their shop, when ten girls came to meet Miss Louie Kerr, and decided, on February 6th, 1911 to form the 1st HAWTHORN BADEN-POWELL GIRL GUIDES.

This seems to have been the first company in Australia to have been registered by the full official title that had been chosen when the Association was founded, May 1910, and by which later it was incorporated, 1915, to protect the title and register the badges.

In 1957, the centenary of the birth of Baden-Powell, Lady Baden-Powell, Chief Guide of the World, unveiled a plaque on the building, and met there six of the original company: some are still members of Trefoil Guilds. The plaque has been removed to Victorian Headquarters, since the building has been developed to steel and glass and partly because the wording might give a wrong impression of the pioneer companies.

1st Hawthorn numbers soon increased to fifteen. The mayor and councillors of Hawthorn sponsored the Girl Guides, as they did the Boy Scouts, and they were permitted to meet in a sports pavilion. Scoutmasters instructed them in many interests – from star-gazing on the heights of Mont Albert golf links to training for camp. The girls had to make or collect everything they needed; their uniform was a navy blue dress with a khaki 'sailor' collar and mushroom-type straw hat. A staff was the climax of the uniform; to use it with skill was a prestige test. With their staffs, a patrol could make a frame for a hut, a flagpole, several stretchers or splints, practise map surveys, hold back a crowd from an accident, jump creeks, organise a rescue from dangerous water, or invent other emergencies.

ACTION Collect broomsticks etc, and have a go!

Camp was planned at once; for 1st Hawthorn every year. Rosa Aylen (Mrs. Wilson of Geelong) recalls:

'The first camp was held over Easter 1911 at Clayton, near Ashburton Forest, in Mr. Henry's large grounds. Hounds from the Oakleigh Hunt Club escaped and got into the food tent, and stole our corned beef, ready cooked, for Sunday's dinner. The Master of the Hounds kindly sent us a pair of ducks in place of the lost meat.'

'Those were the early days of Guiding. We had to make our own badges we earned – it gave us practice in sewing.'

The company prepared a concert programme which was given several times for charity and at the Convalescent Home for Women. They also had a grand fancy dress social with the Scouts.

1957. In the centenary year of the birth of the Founder, Lady Baden-Powell unveiled a plaque on the former Aylen home. Six of the first Guides of 1st Hawthorn met her there that day.

1st Hawthorn Company at a First Aid display.

Another camp was at Burwood on Mr. Stevens' property. He lent a marquee and brought cakes to camp on Sunday – delicacies from Saturday's weddings.

Further afield at Dromana, they travelled down Port Phillip Bay by paddle steamer. Their gear was packed in baskets in the shape of babies' carrying cots with fitted lids fastened by straps. Caught in a sudden heavy storm, the decks were awash. Racks toppled over as the Guides clung for support and the baskets slid the length of the deck and back. The captain had to pass the fair weather jetty at Dromana and make for Sorrento further on. When the storm abated, the Guides were landed at Dromana, and they sat in tents already erected, but with some rain seeping through, until it stopped. Some of their gear was drenched. The butter had turned purple; they had brought coloured paper to decorate their marquee!

On a sunny day they had signalling practice with Boy Scouts camping nearby. They used mirrors to heliograph in morse code from point to point across a bay. An army sergeant who inspected the camp, somewhat surprised, wrote an excellent report. Later, on a smoother day, they went down the bay to Queenscliff to the 'Cottage by the Sea'. This is a holiday home for poor children, managed by the Ministering Children's League. The Guides were interested to meet the children and find ways of helping them.

A BADEN-POWELL GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA

Lieutenant-Colonel Cossgrove had proposed that Girl Peace Scouts, Australian League of Girl Aids, and Girl Guides Association, each keeping their original identity, should combine with some overall title, such as 'Girls of the Empire', but the plan was not carried out because the State Associations of Australia chose to become branches of the British Association.

HOBART, JUNE 1911

Sir Harry Barron and Lady Barron invited all those interested to discuss the future of the Baden-Powell girls' units in Tasmania. The meeting, at Government House, was very well attended by well-known community leaders and clergymen. The leaders of the Peace Scouts reported good progress, with several young ladies training to be 'Scout mistresses'. News was given of the Girl Guide Movement in England and in South Africa, and after full consideration a proposal was carried by a very large majority that 'A Girl Guide Association be formed for Tasmania'. A committee was appointed, based on the one already supervising the Girl Peace Scouts, who would adopt the new name. Lady Barron consented to be patroness. Mrs. Dobson was in London, consulting with Miss Baden-Powell, who appointed her Commissioner. An all-blue uniform was favoured, to be easily distinguished from Boy Scouts, but when a patrol who were 'Scouting' in the North of Tasmania agreed to join only if they could keep their Scout hats, this was allowed, as they were truly pioneers.

During the transfer the name 'Girl Peace Guides' was sometimes used.

VICTORIA CARRIES ON

When Wynifred Gipps was twenty-one, she received her warrant as captain of 1st Melbourne Baden-Powell Girl Guides, signed by the President in London, April 1912, with a letter of congratulations that this was the first warrant issued to Australia. Though other companies were recognised, apparently no applications for warrants had been made.

Soon afterwards Guides from 1st Melbourne and 1st Hawthorn met one another for the first time – in a 'lolly shop', as one of them remembers. They were surprised and especially pleased to meet just then, as they were able to combine for the events that were being arranged for the visit of the Chief Scout.

CHAPTER 6

THE CHIEF SCOUT'S FIRST WORLD TOUR

'Sir Robert Baden-Powell will be remembered in the generations to come, not as the man who fought the Matabele, or that defended Mafeking, but as the man who filled the world with Boy Scouts.

'His work as a soldier was merely a preparation, the necessary experience and training for the beneficent work in which he is now engaged. He will be famous through many generations as the Founder of the Boy Scout Movement, though now so small, when the war in South Africa has faded into insignificance.'

Editor: The Mercury, Hobart. June 1912

In January, 1912, on the steamer 'Arcadian', bound for the West Indies, the Chief Scout began his first world tour; Miss Olave Soames, who would be 23 on February 22nd, began a holiday with her father. She wrote to her mother – 'The only interesting person on board is General Baden-Powell, the Scout Man.' Before they reached Jamaica, Miss Soames and the 'Scout Man' were unofficially engaged to be married, though for the next nine months their ways of life were far apart. They could plan for the future only by letters that took weeks of delivery by ship and train, but each had the gift of writing.

The Chief Scout had been invited to the U.S.A. where fees for his lectures would raise funds for the Boy Scout Movement, and also planned to visit Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. He was accompanied by three secretary-aides.

During the six weeks in the United States, from New York to San Francisco, he gave 20 lectures in 20 different cities, spending no more than two days in any one place, with many meetings with Boys Scouts in between. At Detroit in 15 hours he attended a reception, a luncheon and an official dinner, and gave two lectures to Scouts. N.B. No aeroplanes!

In a letter to Australia, B.-P. wrote that the tour was planned to describe and promote the Boy Scout Movement. He wished to see Girl Guides where possible, but regretted he could not attend any other any functions that people might kindly arrange.

He realised that the people of a British Dominion might feel more enthusiasm for the career of a famous soldier than for the great new purpose of his life. It was a considerable dilemma that lectures on India and Africa raised funds for the Boys Scouts Association, but he solved it triumphantly.

AUSTRALIA

Baden-Powell reached Australia on May 11th at Brisbane, for a few busy days.

On May 16th, at Sydney, well-known ladies and gentlemen were at Central Railway Station together with representatives of Empire friendship societies, Boy Scout Council, Girl Aids and other organisations. The platform was crowded with Boy Scouts drawn up on parade.

The Scout bugle band sounded the 'welcome' call, and cheer after cheer rose up as the Chief Scout appeared.

Greeted by the Governor of New South Wales, Lord Chelmsford, Baden-Powell inspected the Scouts, but disappointed the crowd outside, as with little formality, he was driven quickly away.

On May 17th, the anniversary of the relief of Mafeking, he lectured to a capacity audience.

He used the words 'Peace Scouts' and showed slides of the Canadian 'Mounties', Sir Wilfred Grenfell, and others as types towards which he was trying to train the boys; with picture after picture of the conditions of Scout training. In England 414 medals had been awarded to Scouts who had saved lives at great risk to their own.

He reported that the U.S.A. was 'full of' Boy Scouts, also Canada and the West Indies, Japan and South Africa, as well as many continental nations.

THE GIRLS APPEAR

On 21st, the Chief wrote in his diary – 'I inspected Girl Aids under Mrs. Dixson, who gave me a flag for the Girl Guides of Britain'.

On the Saturday, thousands of sightseers went to Cook's River for the main rally – one thousand Boy Scouts; one hundred Girl Aids, who were 'commended by the General for their displays of First Aid and Camp Cookery'.

TASMANIA

After a detour to New Zealand, where he was impressed by the numbers and bearing of the Girl Peace Scouts, Baden-Powell arrived in Hobart, where the editor of *The Mercury* directed enthusiasm aright by the prophecy that heads this chapter.

Emergency stretcher for the injured – early Tasmania.

A little later he might have added 'Girl Guides'; both press and public were surprised to see them at the Boy Scout rally.

In Launceston, Dorothy Elms and friends were 'Scouting' from a book her father had given her. They longed to attend the Boy Scout rally, but were not allowed to join without an adult in charge.

A letter to the local press brought a volunteer in time, and the emergency stretcher for the injured that they demonstrated was described by the Chief Scout with his own sketch in an English magazine.

To Patrol Leader Dorothy Elms he said:– "My girl, today you are few, but one day you will be thousands". Also in Launceston the Chief unveiled a statue of King Edward VII, his royal friend who had encouraged him in his work for boys and girls, and who had died two years before.

And so on by 'ferry' steamer across Bass Strait.

The Reverend E. Muschamp, his wife, and their son Cecil, were on board that winter's night. The passage was rough! Father and son retired to their cabin early; Mrs. Muschamp, a better sailor, was the only woman to appear at the evening meal, and she was escorted by Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

'Next morning, my mother introduced me to him and I remember him asking me, "Are you a Scout?" I told him I was too young, being then just ten year old, and he replied, "We hope to do something for people like you." Perhaps that was the beginning of Wolf Cubs!' (Reminiscence from The Right Reverend Cecil Muschamp, Bishop of Kalgoorlie, retired, writing from Perth.)

After the family returned from England, Mrs. Muschamp was most energetic in organising the Guide Movement in Northern Tasmania.

VICTORIA

Hundreds of Boy Scouts thronged the Melbourne wharf next morning as the S.S. 'Rotomahana' moved into her river berth; between Spencer and Market Streets. Some well-known citizens wearing Scout badges were also early abroad.

Few Australians had met Baden-Powell, but they remembered the night when the news of the Relief of Mafeking had burst and the legend of his name had grown in the years between. The gentlemen of the press were there with cameras at the ready to greet the hero of Mafeking. In that moment of excitement, a civilian, rather short in stature, wearing a bowler hat and a travelling overcoat, walked down the gang plank, and was soon surrounded by the crowding, cheering boys.

The Chief Scout was greeted by Captain Wheatley, Aide-de-Camp to the State Governor, and Mr. Ernest Wears of the Boy Scouts.

He was steered steadily to the motorcar, as the boys clambered over to shake hands, and driven off to State Government House, then 'Stonnington', Glenferrie Road, Malvern, – now a State College of Education. There he was the guest of Sir John and Lady Fuller who had 'three little girls and three jolly boys'. As Melbourne was the Federal Capital before Canberra was occupied, Government House in the Domain was the residence of the Governor-General of Australia.

Because the contrast struck them so suddenly, their first astonishment is a measure in some degree of the great decision Baden-Powell had made for the second half of his life; from applauded soldier at the peak of his career, Inspector-General of Cavalry for the British Army, General in charge of organising Territorial Divisions . . . to become leader of a plan for boys that was just at the beginning and of which few could foresee the future, knowing only that it was in his hands. The gentlemen of the press soon recovered and rose gallantly to the occasion.

The Scout Movement had been criticised as being 'too military' – the training aimed to prepare boys for the army; or as 'not military enough' – it might clash with the plan for universal military training that the Government was introducing.

Baden-Powell's visit was reported in detail with emphasis on the actual aims of the Movement. For his two lectures, Melbourne Town Hall was packed to overflowing. Profits were donated to the Boy Scouts Association. The rally in the Domain on the Saturday attracted crowds of spectators.

GIRL GUIDES' DAY

June 13th was Girl Guides' day. To meet the Chief Scout the companies gathered in the courtyard of the Fire Brigade Station on Eastern Hill, Melbourne, in the presence of Lady Fuller and four of her children. After the parade and address firemen conducted groups of Guides over the station, where in the dormitory upstairs a large pole rose through a hole in the floor. At the 'alarm' each man would jump from bed, pull on the uniform lying ready beside him with boots attached to trousers, and in a matter of seconds slide down the pole to the fire engine below. In his speech – learnt by heart – one fireman guide said: 'How would you like to do that?'. One Girl Guide showed him. Nita van Seden rose to the dare, jumped, and brought it off!

The horses were stabled near the fire engine. At the 'alarm' their stall doors opened automatically; each horse moved to his place beneath the harness descending by pulley above him; the last straps were buckled and with precision teamwork of men and horses they were off, with firebell clanging down the road. If a horse were slow in moving a stick, timed mechanically, hit his rump.

When Baden-Powell described the rally in a letter to his mother he called the companies (a), (b) and (c). (a) Miss Gipps' units; (b) 1st Hawthorn with Miss Kerr; (c) uncertain: possibly Fitzroy.

He wrote:

'I inspected three companies of Girl Guides here yesterday.

(a) The Captain was young but very keen. The uniform inclined too much to sergeants' stripes, lanyards, cowboy hats and they even had a drummer.

(b) Rather more sober uniform.

(c) Very young Captain.

None of these have regular club rooms but meet once a week in rooms lent to them. Generally go out into the country on Saturdays to practise signalling, cooking tea, etc.

No Council – all companies working independently of each other – so much so that the (c) company were hidden in a shed till I happened to see them and bring them out. The others did not like them apparently because they were not in regular uniform. But they were doing their best. I told the leaders privately to get a Committee of leading ladies to give them a common head and local backing. I addressed the girls and told them to put their good turns into practice at home to begin with by helping their mothers in cooking and other household work, etc. Also to get to know their sister Guides in other parts of the Empire.'

One evening the Boy Scouts Council held a conversazione in the St. Kilda Town Hall.

His Excellency the Governor of Victoria was present, with the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Madden. Mr. Monash, (later Sir John), was among many distinguished guests; on the ladies' committee were Lady Madden, Mrs. Monash, Miss Gipps and Miss Kerr.

In his speech, the Chief Scout remarked that one of the most startling receptions he had received had been the totally unrehearsed one at the Melbourne wharf, 'when enthusiastic crowds climbed over the motorcar to shake hands.'

In conclusion he said that the Girl Guide Movement was only just beginning in this country, but it was a Movement he could recommend to all. He asked that those who found any good in the Boy Scout Movement should support it.

In South Australia, the 1st Glen Osmond and 1st Parkside Companies had been formed. Miss E. Wemyss was captain of both.

Probably having heard of Lt.-Col. Cossgrove's suggestion for an Imperial Baden-Powell Girls Association ladies who were interested asked the Chief Scout whether the Girl Guides in Australia should form a National Association or become a branch of the British Association. He advised that the question should be referred to the State Governor, Chief Scout for South Australia.

The Girl Guides of South Australia presented a flag to the Chief for the Girl Guides of England.

Sir Robert then travelled to Western Australia, to Africa and home to England, to his wedding.

On October 30th, he married his friend of the outward voyage. Miss Olave Soames became Lady Baden-Powell.

CHAPTER 7

SEQUELS

Victoria

After Baden-Powell's visit, the Girl Guides in Victoria became gradually more 'in the picture' – literally.

The *Herald,* evening newspaper, reported a long interview with Miss Gipps who estimated one hundred Guides in companies near Melbourne, 'though not all might be well-run'.

The weekly, *Table Talk,* published a photograph of 1st Hawthorn in front of Mrs. Harper's house, 'Myoora', Toorak. They had been invited to attend a large fete for charity, and had formed a Guard of Honour for the Governor-General, Lord Denman.

Miss Kerr is on the left, in the front row, and Dorothy Ussher, (Mrs. Carter) lieutenant, on the right.

It is this photograph that was found in a pile of old papers about 24 years later, and gave the clue to the early companies.

1st HAWTHORN GIRL GUIDES 1912/1913
They had formed a guard of honour for the Governor-General and Lady Denman during a garden fete for charity at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harper, 'Myoora', Toorak Road, Toorak. Mrs. Harper is on the verandah on right. Miss Kerr is in front on left and Dorothy Ussher, lieutenant, in front on the right. Miss Ussher became Mrs. Carter. Later she joined Trefoil Guild and advised Guides who acted scenes from their history, (see photograph of 1957 – page 19).

New South Wales

The Australian flag from the Girl Aids of Sydney was entrusted to a company in Birmingham.

Guide news had been transferred from *Home Notes* to a monthly, *The Golden Rule;* for July, 1913, Miss Baden-Powell wrote:

'You have all heard what sisterly love the Australian Girl Guides have shown us in sending you a beautiful large flag with their kind greetings. It is a red flag with the Union Jack on one side and the white stars of Australia on it. Now, do you not think we ought to show them some kindness in return, and prove to them that we like their loving thought? What do you wish to do for your Australian sister Guides? Let me know what your plan would be.'

One wonders what answers, if any, were sent and what we would have suggested. In due course, a shield for competition was designed, and in the name of the Girl Guides of Britain, sent to Mrs. Dixson in Sydney. Embossed on a metal disc in the centre, a Girl Guide is seated on a sphere, waving a Union Jack, to represent exchange of flags across the world; small metal shields are spaced round for names of winners, with the Girl Guide badge and motto overall at the top.

In May 1914, the rally for the shield was held at Government House. It had to be indoors because of the weather. Lady Edeline Strickland presented the trophy to Captain Payens, but the name was not inscribed.

The first World War was declared on the 4th August, 1914, and the Girl Aids soon phased out. Said one of them: 'I do not remember details, but we had great fun.' The shield disappeared! Not till 1965 was it found at the back of a cupboard in a private house, with full report of the rally from the press. It is now at New South Wales Girl Guide Headquarters.

STRENGTHENING THE LINKS

Probably stimulated by the Chief's World Tour, in 1913 Miss Agnes Baden-Powell planned an Overseas Committee to 'link together the worldwide work of the Girl Guides and kindred Societies . . . by interchange of ideas and methods used in different countries to suit local needs . . . send and receive occasional reports . . . no idea of any sort of interference with existing National Association . . . but to form a link between all of them and encourage formation of new ones'.

The letter to Miss Louie Kerr must surely have been one of many that the general committee decided to send, to ask for opinions and possible nominations; but the plan was apparently ahead of the times.

GIRL GUIDE HANDBOOK

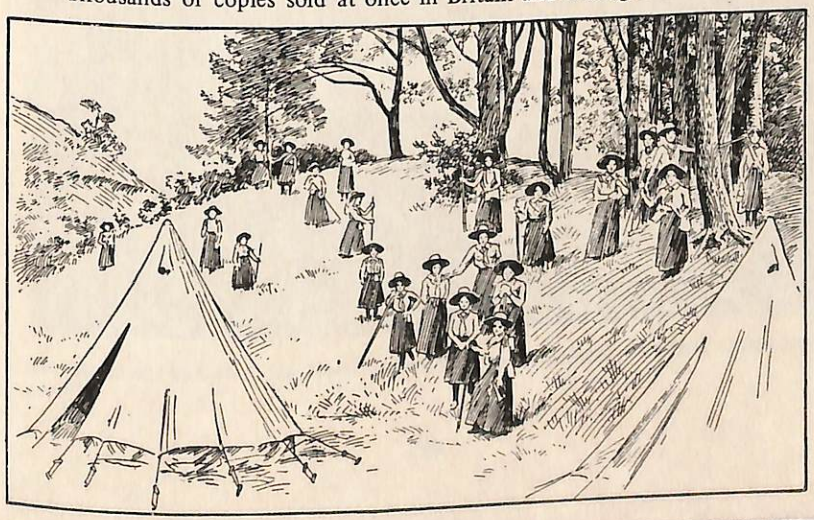
By the President and the Chief Scout.

To think back a little to 1912.

In 1912, the Handbook for Girl Guides was published: *How Girls Can Help to Build Up the Empire,* by Miss Agnes Baden-Powell and Sir Robert Baden-Powell. It was a pocket size book of 468 pages – a mini encyclopaedia for Guides, captains and all instructors. Articles on special subjects such as health were written by experts; Miss Dorothy Rodgers who had helped with early companies in Johannesburg, and who was sister of a well-known doctor, advised captains to arrange for girls to be told frankly and directly about sex, as each should ask. Up-to-date badges were listed, even 'Flyer' , with the names of women aeronauts.

> *'Our real object is to instil into every girl and encourage the idea of self-improvement. A fair average standard therefore is all that is required to begin with . . . We do not require a squad of experts but we want to put a taste of the right spirit into five million girls.'*

Thousands of copies sold at once in Britain and throughout the Empire.



CHAPTER 8

WAR

On August 4th, 1914, Britain, in alliance with Belgium and France, declared war on Germany. Many other countries were involved on each side, and the first World War lasted until November 11th, 1918.

With other dominions, Australia and New Zealand at once pledged their support for Britain, mobilised their forces and called for recruits.

They went into action as The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps; 'The ANZACS'.

As soon as war was declared, the Red Cross Society was organised throughout Australia, as were also various patriotic funds.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides helped wherever they could. 1st Hawthorn Girl Guides made white uniforms and became a Red Cross Corps attached to the central depot at Government House, until gradually they dispersed, and Miss Kerr married. Wrote Mrs. Wilson (Rosa Aylen) of Geelong: 'we were a very professional company but a very happy one. Captain Kerr was a wonderful person; very kind and tolerant. I believe the members of her company have carried through their lives the high standard of morals she taught us'.

1st Hawthorn Girl Guides; the company became a Red Cross corps when war was declared in 1914.

Miss Gipps had already become Mrs. Wheeler, and her three companies gradually disbanded. They had several times rejected a plan for other leaders – 'We want to be YOUR girls' .

From January 1914, the Girl Guides Association published the monthly magazine, *The Girl Guides Gazette,* now *The Guider.* Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia (1915) with Associations at State level, sent over their news.

Tasmania had Guides in more than thirty districts; as part of their war-work they made rabbit-skin jackets for soldiers, and felt slippers for hospitals.

South Australia had at least five companies and had held three camps. They sent 250 boxes of clothing for war-victims. 'At the quarterly meeting of the South Australian Association of Girl Guides, presided over by Lady Symon, an interesting paper was read on "Flies", especially in connection with camp life as disease carriers etc. Schemes of extermination were suggested. Also a report on the excellent work being done by those girls in assisting the Red Cross'. (press report).

With the Movement started full scale in Western Australia in 1915 and one company in Brisbane that same year, by 1916 the tally for Australia was 1,000 B.-P. Girl Guides/Girl Scouts who had been registered.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1915

One company was already in Albany, in charge of Miss Selby-Lowndes, when a Scoutmaster of 'St. Alban's Own' near Perth, wrote an appeal to the local periodical, *Western Women.* He asked if anyone would help the girls who constantly asked him, and he was sure other Scouters also, where and when they could join Girl Guides?

The editor, Miss Frances Wells, published a long article on the Girl Guide Movement and appealed to thoughtful women of the country.

The leaders of the Women's Service Guild at once responded. When information came from London, they organised a public meeting for June 28, 1915.

'There's to be a meeting to start Guides!' and the Perth Town Hall was packed to the doors. The mayor of Perth presided.

After a speech by Miss Wells to explain the Movement, the Governor, Sir Harry Barron, who had been transferred from Tasmania, moved and Archbishop Riley seconded the resolution 'That a Girl Guide Association be formed in this State, and that we apply to the Headquarters of the Girl Guide Association of Great Britain for the warrant.' Carried enthusiastically!

Lady Barron was appointed Chief Guide and Mrs. Osborn Wilson honorary secretary of the Council. Girls interested were invited to enrol at her home the next Tuesday.

Letters poured in. When Tuesday came, every corner of Mrs. Wilson's home was filled to overflowing. At least seventy arrived – girls in the rooms, the passages, even the laundry, chattered excitedly, passed around pieces of string, drew little flags – in short they tried to learn all the Tenderfoot work at once. 'To think there was such a need,' said Mrs. Wilson, 'And we not know it.' (from *Guiding in W.A.*).

No. 1 Swan Company was formed with Miss Beryl Hedly as captain and Miss Mattie Holder as lieutenant. Rita Bannon was a patrol leader.

The 1st Swan Company, renamed 1st Perth, has an unbroken record, a claim to be the longest in Australia.

Once during the difficult times after the war, when P.L. Rita alone attended a Guide 'meeting', she improvised the whole evening's programme by herself; determined that the company must go on.

In 1915, Miss Grace Holder was the first, and for a time, the only commissioner. She was well known as representative of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and had already travelled widely through country towns.

A few juniors, in the charge of Mrs. Wilson, were called, first 'Bluebirds' as in India, then 'Rosebuds', the first name in Britain before 'Brownies'.

As travelling commissioner, Miss Grace Holder's work took her to all parts of the State and within a year there were over 300 Guides in companies scattered from the goldfields to Bunbury, though mostly in the city area. Their special song was 'The Awakening' –

'They are waking, they are waking,
In the east and in the west:
They are throwing wide their windows to the sun,
And they see the dawn is breaking
And they quiver with unrest
For they know their work is waiting to be done.'

The large agricultural State had ports nearer than any others to the war zone. The Western Australian contingent of the Light Horse Brigade was fighting in Palestine (Israel and Jordan) and other areas of the Middle East, and Guides were distressed to learn how flies brought intense suffering to the army horses. Guide Captain Groom of 1st Wagin Company collected binder-twine from sheaves of fodder fed to farm horses, netted fly veils and sent samples to army officers.

Army Headquarters thanked the Guides very much for the idea. They would be glad to receive 50,000 as soon as possible!

So while they took their part in all other opportunities 'Fly Veils For Horses' became the special war-time challenge for the Guides of Western Australia. Farmers willingly helped to collect used twine. One company made 150 in one month!

QUEENSLAND

'On a Sunday afternoon in 1915 in Queensland, a small group of girls visited Miss Marjorie Grimes at her home, "Tarragindi", South Brisbane. They had read a story of Girl Scouts in an English village, and said to Miss Grimes "We want to be Girl Scouts, and we want you to be our Scoutmistress." Miss Grimes agreed, and Scoutmaster A. Cribb, of Ipswich, visited them for four Saturday afternoons, and instructed them in Scout drill, knot tying, fire lighting, stalking, tracking and semaphore signalling. He then examined them for the Tenderfoot Test and enrolled them as Girl Scouts. Patrols were the "Wolves"

and the "Ravens". They made their own emblems and badges, and met in the stable buildings of the Tarragindi home.'

Note: A claim to be with 1st Perth the 'longest continuous' might possibly be made for 1st Tarragindi, Queensland, but as fire has destroyed some records, it is not certain in which month of 1915 they first met as Girl Scouts, nor if there has actually been no interval.

'Miss Grimes tried to find out whether any other Girl Scouts existed, from Scout Headquarters, but was told that the girls should not copy the boys. The book was discovered in a Brisbane bookshop – *How Girls Can Help to Build Up The Empire*, by Miss Baden-Powell – and in this was the English address of the Girl Guides, so Miss Grimes wrote, and received the reply that there were Girl Guides in South Australia. The South Australian Guides advised Miss Grimes to get in touch with Government House in Brisbane. The girls carried on with "Scouting", and took part in the war effort; they helped in the kitchen of the Red Cross Cafe on Saturday mornings, doing all sorts of jobs. Their uniform was a khaki shirt waist, a navy blue skirt attached to a bodice, scout hats, brown belts, black shoes and stockings and a black handkerchief.'

When Lady Goold-Adams, the wife of the Governor of Queensland, became State Commissioner in 1919, she formed the committee of the Girl Guides Association, and planned a rally for Girl Guides and Boy Scouts to be held in November. At the rally the 1st Tarrigindi Company and Pack were enrolled; so the little group of Girl Scouts became the first Girl Guides of Queensland.

During her time of active Guiding, Miss Grimes was Brown Owl, Captain, Guide and Brownie Trainer, Commissioner for Brownies and State Secretary; to her pioneer work 'we owe the firm foundations of Guiding in Queensland.'

Camping

'During Easter holidays the first Guide camp was held at Meyer's Ferry, now Surfers Paradise. Brisbane and Toowoomba companies attended and competed for a Trefoil Flag presented by Mrs. Price. The local Scoutmaster examined the Guides for billy-boiling, tent-pitching, knots and campfire items. An ambulance bearer examined for first-aid, and Dr. Berry inspected the hygiene of the campsite. The companies camped on the South Coast every year till 1931.' From *Guiding in Queensland.*

UNITS HERE AND THERE

In Victoria and New South Wales, as in Queensland, before State Associations were organized, B.-P. girls were 'Scouting' here and there.

1916

At Daylesford, Victoria, 'Girl Scouts' with their Mistress, Miss Riva Pozzi, were a separate unit from the Boy Scouts, but had a combined committee:– Secretary, Miss Pozzi, sponsored by the Methodist Church, the Church of England, and indeed the whole community.

In summer, the girls rose at 5.00 a.m. and walked up to two miles to the lake for swimming lessons with their school teacher, Miss Rhind. Miss Rhind also conducted swimming tests for the Daylesford Boy Scouts and Girl 'Scouts' during separate, but adjacent camps near Altona Beach.

Enrolment Day, May 1922, for 1st Fintona Guide Company, Camberwell, Victoria, which was first formed at Fintona school in 1917, and after an interval made a fresh start with another Miss Miller as captain (see Chapter Eight). In the centre of the picture is Miss MacDonald, acting headmistress, on her left, Mrs. White, district commissioner; on her right, Miss Miller, captain. The photograph was taken by Guide Trixie Read (Miss A. E. Read, of Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.) who is not in the picture, but continued her interest in Guiding by becoming lieutenant of one of the first companies in Wagga Wagga.

1917

At Tamworth, New South Wales, Elsie Lee and friends 'Scouted' by B.-P.'s book in the hills nearby, and were particular about their own type of uniform.

Most of them joined in as soon as the Guide Movement was organised. One led a mounted patrol at Bowral and demonstrated 'Cobbler' at the first State rally of New South Wales.

Elsie Lee, in Japan by 1920, joined 1st Tokyo company, attached to St. Hilda's Church of England. It was probably from this mission that a clergyman had written to New Zealand for a copy of *Peace Scouting for Girls.* Her captain, (leader), Miss Marjorie Greenstreet, was an English missionary who had started the Movement in Japan. Only Elsie, two Guides from the U.S.A., and one other could speak English; gesture, example and smiles were part of the fun. But Japan was just an interval in a lifetime of Guiding in her home State, New South Wales.

At Fintona school, Camberwell, Victoria, the headmistress announced that a Girl Guide company would be formed that afternoon, at 3.30 on the basketball court, by Miss Miller – a teacher recently arrived from England.

One hundred and thirty girls, in wild surmise, confronted Miss Miller, as she appeared in uniform complete – hat turned up with feathers, belt, lanyard, shoulder-knots – and calmly proceeded to instruct the whole gathering in company drill.

'And I,' thought Betty Potter, aged thirteen, 'might one day wear a uniform like that.' She did, through styles changing with the times, for 50 years.

The next week one hundred girls appeared in a uniform based on the school dress; though the company eventually settled to more normal numbers.

WHAT, NO GUIDES!

Even 1,000 Guides spread rather thinly over Australia, especially when considerable numbers were in a few centres, and some of the earliest companies had disbanded.

As the war was ending, Guiders and Guides returning home from England, or coming for the first time, brought a fresh stream of energy to the Movement. Somewhat dismayed at first if there were no unit to join where they happened to be living, they soon put that little matter right! As did Joyce Russell at Skipton, Victoria, at home from school in England where she had been patrol leader in 1919. Officially 'ticked off' for being too young, she and her sister led a company for several years in the district where Irene Fairbairn (Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn) came as a young bride from England to her new home – 'Banongil'.

CAMPING VARIATIONS

Through several years:

'Tasmania' thought for themselves; 'Western Australia' earned and travelled; 'South Australia' worked and tracked.

'New South Wales' went straight to the experts – military and austere.

TASMANIA

When mothers seemed likely to ban camp, lest the milk should be polluted, Guides took a cow to their site, and earned Dairy-Maid badges. Another company, travelling by train on very narrow gauge, found that their palliasses, already filled, would not fit into the tiny carriages. They tied them outside between the door handles!

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Guides of 1st Perth, as soon as one camp was over, began to save for the next by earning a few pennies each week. A quartermaster could feed Guides well for about three shillings a day (30-40 cents). The first year that Rita Bannon was captain, they earned enough for fares to Busselton. She has written – 'We could not afford sleepers when we travelled overnight; I hired a corridor carriage, we packed the luggage between the seats, and the Guides spread their blankets and lay across from seat to seat.

'My first camp as captain was at Busselton, with Miss Bronsden, with 1st Victoria Park and 1st Collie. Busselton Guides met the train, entertained all the companies to dinner, a Welcome Social, and a visit to "Cattle Chosen", the Bussels' old home.

'We camped in the Showground; Guides slept on sacks filled with straw; tall girls needed two sacks, one open end pulled over the other and firmly sewn together; the captains slept in hammocks slung up in the cowstalls. One night one of us was awakened by a cow licking her feet.

'The joint camp was fun, and all went well until it was time to return. Then there was a railway strike. The other captains could afford to wait . . . but I had to get back for work. I managed to get a passage for my company on the "Kurnalpi", a tramp steamer calling at Busselton with cattle. We had to be up at 3.00 a.m. and 1st Victoria Park, who were staying on, kindly prepared breakfast for us . . . However, we did not sail until 5.00 a.m. because we had to wait for a concert party of South Australian Scouts who were also sailing.

'As it was Sunday when we found we could get a passage, and as the boat left early Monday morning I had no time to get extra stores for the journey. Luckily Miss Cantwell could get some . . . I always knew Guides could eat but never as they did on that trip. They got through a kerosene tin of sandwiches before 7.00 a.m.! Sitting wherever we could find a space, or watching what was going on around us, the day passed pleasantly enough. About 6.00 p.m. the Scouts had just begun to give us a concert when the sea became so rough the performance had to called off. The captain allowed me to take any girls who were seasick to a small upper deck. Before long the whole company was there. When we eventually arrived at Fremantle at 1.30 a.m. Miss Bull, the newly appointed Organising Secretary, was on the wharf to meet us and shepherded us over to the Immigration Department premises where we spent the rest of the night trying to sleep on the hard slat forms. Every time a Guide stirred I jumped up to make sure she didn't fall off the narrow bench, and every time I moved Miss Bull was after me, tap, tap, tapping with her walking stick to see what was wrong. It was my first meeting with Miss Bull, that remarkable leader, who was to be the lifeblood of Western Australia Guiding for a decade. Later that

morning a launch took us to Perth, so weary we needed matches to keep our eyes open.' From *My Sixty Years in the Guiding I Love,* a booklet written and donated to the Girl Guides of W.A. by Rita Bartlett, nee Bannon.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1921

'CAMP'. 'The south-east Commissioner of the Girl Guide Movement, (Mrs. K. D. Bowman of Poltalloch) recently initiated a happy scheme, which could not fail to appeal to the Australian Girl Guide. A week was spent in camp within coo-ee of the Poltalloch homestead, and the Commissioner and her eight "Guides" drawn from the surrounding districts remained under canvas with Sister Powell, a returned army nurse, who gave instruction in first aid and general hygiene. Lessons in cooking and housecraft were varied by gardening and lessons in physical culture, (in which Mr. Bowman, who put in an appearance at the camp daily, was instructor). The art of "tracking" was graphically explained by an aborigine, who was keenly interested. The camp was voted a great success by the girls. The Misses Bowman are enthusiastic Girl Guides, but owing to school duties were unable to go into camp'. – From *The Australasian,* October 22nd, 1921. Found under the carpet of an old house in Hobart.

This was the first 'Guiders' Training Camp' in South Australia. The camper's license had not been organised, but the book, *Campcraft for Girl Guides,* was used. Mrs. Bowman described how they followed every sentence, and copied the photographs in such detail that their camp might almost have been the original.

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Guiders for the First 'Officers' ' Training Camp were prepared by military personnel; by lectures with diagrams on a blackboard. (Miss N. Levy: Officer in Charge.)

At the campsite, they beheld for the first time tents large enough for eight people, all to be erected in a strict straight line. Two of them, who were mathematics students, worked out the measurements, and they all went up in due course.

Campers were awakened by a bugle call at 6.00 a.m., jumped into 'bathers' and ran at the 'double' to the river to wash. They 'magiced' the morning mist into steam rising from a hot bath. 'This was just incidental. It was all a tremendous experience.' –Adapted from Mrs. Relton's account.

CHAPTER 9

A NEW BOOK – GIRL GUIDING

Girl Guiding, by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Bt., 1918, replaced the pioneer handbook, *How Girls Can Help to Build Up the Empire.*

The Chief Scout chose the title 'Guider', instead of 'Officer' or 'Guide Mistress', and wrote brief instructions on general principles. *Girl Guiding* was written for the girls themselves, challenging, serious, adventurous, with the experience of the first crowded years, and new ideas, largely his own.

Brownies 8–11. He had by request chosen the name about two years before, instead of the original 'Rosebuds', which was not popular. The Brownie story and the whole plan for the section are part of *Girl Guiding.*

Seniors are outlined, but the Chief did not choose the name 'Ranger' till 1920.

For **Girl Guides,** 11–16, he drew a signpost, pointing in four directions: Character and intelligence; Handcraft; Health; and Service. Each road to be followed had at least two lanes and these have now been named separately as the eight points of a star. For instance, Health is both 'Keep Fit' and 'Enjoying the Out of Doors'. They overlap, of course, and are not meant to be precise. With the same general challenges, the 'eight' are the 'four' in greater detail, with more ways of exploring them.

The plan in *Girl Guiding* had three stages for all-round proficiency with the same tests (challenges) for everyone.

Tenderfoot: Tests 'Prepared' a recruit for enrolment; to receive her badge, by making the Threefold Promise, followed by the words from the Guider:– 'I welcome you as a Girl Guide and trust you to do a good turn every day.'

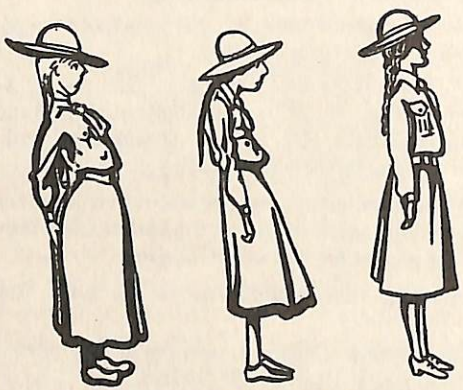
As written by Baden-Powell, 1918.

THE GUIDE PROMISE

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best –
To do my duty to God and the King;
To help other people at all times;
To obey the Guide Law.

THE GUIDE LAW

1. A Guide's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Guide is loyal.
3. A Guide's duty is to be useful, and to help others.
4. A Guide is a friend to all, and a sister to every other Guide, no matter to what creed, country, or class the other belongs.
5. A Guide is courteous.
6. A Guide is a friend to animals.
7. A Guide obeys orders.
8. A Guide smiles and sings under all difficulties.
9. A Guide is thrifty.
10. A Guide is pure in thought, word and deed.



" Growing girls are very apt to slouch."

A Guide should have her head screwed on the right way, not as in this picture.

Baden-Powell explained the meaning in chapters on Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class tests. At each stage the first challenge was that a Guide should show, through all that she undertook, a wider understanding of her Promise and the Law.

Second Class – when this was gained each could choose whatever other badges she wished to win, but the Chief urged always to aim steadily for the **First Class** Badge, far along the roads of the signpost.

Badges and medals would be awarded for even greater skills or for outstanding acts of bravery, with the Silver Fish, the highest possible award for outstanding service to the Movement. (Fish can swim up river against strong currents and rapids, or keep direction through hundreds of miles of ocean.)

Among practical diagrams, B.-P.'s own sketches are lavishly scattered; humorous, (heads screwed on right or wrong way), adventurous (cliff rescue), challenging.

'Perhaps the most important suggestion I can offer here to Guiders may be summed up in the motto:– "Laugh while you work".'

'Accurate drill, neat bandaging, quick legible signalling, are steps, but they are only steps . . . Happy, smiling faces, ready resourcefulness, quick intelligence in carrying out any job that may be given, is the evidence as to whether or not true Guide training is being practised by the Captain and her company.'

Girl Guiding was written during the most desperate days of the first World War, when Guides of every age were taking their part far beyond anything that could have been possibly expected, even through the first air raids ever experienced, before 'Precautions' were organised, and when food was drastically rationed.

Even with paper at inflated prices and in short supply, three editions in 1918 grew to the sixth in 1921 (price about 30 cents), and this only the beginning. With adjustments as needed, and translated into many languages, the Handbook became an inspiration for the wonderful increase in membership during the years of peace. But the same programme cannot suit every girl all the time. 'It has to be administered with great discrimination,' Baden-Powell had said at the beginning, years before. So his book has had sequels, adapted to different countries and to changing times. Always, the foundation is the Promise with the Law, though some of the actual original words have been replaced by others with the same meaning, more generally used today.

ACTION Compare with the present Law, and consider why changes have been made.

CHAPTER 10

LADY BADEN-POWELL
Olave St. Clair Baden-Powell
Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire,
Chief Guide of the World
February 22, 1889 – June 25, 1977

Olave Soames was the youngest of three in the family of Mr. Harold Soames, a scholar who was interested in music and art. She was educated at home with her sister, by governesses. She spoke French and German fluently and played the violin well, but liked best to be out of doors with her pony, dogs and birds.

The family moved frequently; she lived in twelve different parts of England and visited other countries. When she began her holiday to Jamaica they were living in the South of England and Olave had been visiting and teaching a class of small boys in a home for invalid children at Bournemouth.

(Do read a book about the life of Lady Baden-Powell. Several have been written, all are not always at hand.)

1912-1920

Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell had three children – Peter born 1913, Heather, (the name was chosen by Guides) 1915, and Betty, 1917.

Interested from the first in Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Lady Baden-Powell was enrolled with the Girl Guide Badge by her husband, in 1916. As Commissioner for Sussex, she organised the county in the way that became the general plan of Districts. She was next appointed Chief Commissioner, and soon the title was changed to Chief Guide which she liked much better. As gradually more Associations were becoming branches of Imperial Headquarters, Girl Guides of the Empire – and beyond – would feel united within the same personal leadership.

THE GOLDEN FISH

When Lady Baden-Powell accepted the title 'CHIEF GUIDE' in 1918, all the County Commissioners of the British Isles combined to present to her with their affection and admiration, her special insignia – a Golden Fish.

No other has been awarded within the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement.

PEACE

Look wide! And when you think you are looking wide, look wider still.
Baden-Powell.

After the war had ended, as soon as communication became possible, Lady Baden-Powell became President of an International Committee, to discover the plight of Guides in war-torn countries. In July, 1920, the first International Conference was held at Oxford, with delegates from ten countries of Europe, the U.S.A., and six Empire countries: at least two from Australia.

The second International Conference was two years later and larger. The Chief Guide was President, also, of an Imperial Council, later called the Overseas Committee. She planned that each member should take responsibility for a country within the British Empire with which she had had some contact, to exchange reports, news and advice, to promote Guiding in every way. New Zealand, where the girls were still called Peace Scouts, reported good progress.

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

1920

Among the members of the Imperial Council were Lady Barron and Lady Ellison Macartney (a little later), who had each supported the first Associations in Tasmania and Western Australia when their husbands had succeeded one another as State Governors.

Mrs. Osborn, elected for New South Wales, reported that there seemed no desire to start the Movement in that State!!!

The Chief Guide was puzzled because she could receive no report as from 'Australia'.

She had not then experienced our 'Far Horizons', and she wrote to Western Australia about her problem.

'No one seems to know what anyone else is doing!'

She consulted Lady Forster, the wife of our new Governor-General, and Her Excellency consented to become the first President of the Girl Guide Move-

ment in Australia. The appointment was welcomed by the State Commissioners already holding office, but even where Guides had been most energetic during the strain and fatigue of war-time, the big adjustment back to peace brought reaction. Numbers decreased and time was needed to re-organise.

Lady Forster was able to meet Guides sometimes as she travelled, – in Hobart and Brisbane, for instance; and to correspond with Imperial Council; her general influence was greatly appreciated, but no organisation at national level was possible until each State was formally constituted and had gained some experience.

Imperial Headquarters continued to correspond with each State separately as well as with the President.

ROYAL LEADERSHIP

1920

The Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) visited Australia. His Royal Highness had asked, through Baden-Powell, to arrange to meet Girl Guides wherever possible. In Brisbane, Hobart, Perth, Guides paraded as Guards of Honour. In Melbourne at a strong post in St. Kilda Road, 1st Heidelberg with a banner attracted a special wave.

OUR PRINCESS PRESIDENT

Princess Mary was the only daughter of King George V and Queen Mary. Always interested in the Movement, though not allowed to be a Girl Guide in her girlhood, Her Royal Highness had been enrolled by Lady Baden-Powell, 1917, to become County President of Norfolk and in 1920 consented to become President of the Girl Guides Association. Miss Agnes Baden-Powell became Vice-president.

The next year, Princess Mary's engagement to be married was announced.

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Dorothy Wilding

H.R.H. The Princess Royal,
President of the Girl Guides Association, 1920–1965.

Wedding Gifts

'In honour of the marriage of our beloved President,' Mrs. Archbold of the U.S.A. offered her property 'Foxlease' in the New Forest, England, as a gift to the Girl Guides Association. Amidst delighted excitement, the question of finance for maintenance arose – and was answered.

The Royal President gave £6,000 (twelve thousand dollars) to solve the problem of furnishing, alteration and upkeep. The 'Marys of the Empire' with Australians joining in, had contributed to a special wedding gift, but the Princess would accept for herself only a very small proportion of the large sum that had been raised. She wished that most of it should be used for the welfare of

young people. Here came the opportunity. Later £4,000 (eight thousand dollars) was added from the proceeds of an exhibition of all the royal wedding presents.

Only through this generosity of the President was it possible for the Guide Association to accept the wonderful gift of Foxlease; a large mansion and several other buildings with about 24 hectares (60 acres) of camping ground.

The Council decided to name the mansion 'Princess Mary House'.

The first Guider-in-charge, Miss Alice Behrens, had been Commissioner in Manchester since 1913; Deputy Chief Commissioner; Head of Training, Member of Executive Committee; County Commissioner South-East Lancashire. Author of *Games for Girl Guides.*

Miss Behrens tackled with energy all that had to be done, and planned that everyone should have a part in preparing our first Guide Home.

'Guiding is for the Girl, not the Girl for Guiding'; 'Guiding is a tool, not an end in itself', were principles of her leadership.

Everyone wanted to share; Scotland (main sitting room), London and various counties, each adopted a room with its own identity.

States of Australia sent distinctive gifts of furniture, and later a bedroom became 'Australia'.

Foxlease opened with the first training week in June 1922, and at once became an important centre for Guiders from many countries that sent gifts with their visitors.

The personal influence of Miss Behrens, and of so many who have followed, merged into the spirit of Foxlease.

A SUMMARY OF ORGANISATION
(with earlier companies)

UNITS – See also UNITS HERE AND THERE (page 36).

TASMANIA

1909-1910	Girl Peace Scouts, corresponding with the organisation in New Zealand.
1911	Transferred to Girl Guide Movement as a branch of the British Association with established committee: Lady Barron, Patroness; Mrs. Dobson, Commissioner.
1920	Re-organised. Lady Allardyce, President.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1912	Two companies, with committee. Miss E. Wemyss, Captain of both companies. Gradual progress, State Association.
1921	Girl Guides Association adopted re-organised constitution. Lady Hackett, Chief Guide, State Commissioner.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1915	Girl Guides Association launched at public meeting in Perth. One company already in Albany. Lady Barron, Chief Guide.

QUEENSLAND

1910	One company of Girl Scouts for one year, at Milton.
1915	One company of Girl Scouts, Tarragindi, South Brisbane. Captain: Miss Marjorie Grimes.
1919	State Association Girl Guides. Lady Goold-Adams, State Commissioner; soon succeeded by Mrs. E. H. Macartney, after the death of the State Governor.

NEW SOUTH WALES

1909-1910	Australian League of Girl Aids, recognised in affiliation with Boy Scouts Association: dispersed during World War I.
1920	State Girl Guides Association; Lady Davidson (later Dame Margaret) State Commissioner.

VICTORIA

1909-1910	Florence Nightingale Girl Aids (name coincidence). Leader only 17 but recognised during 1911 as Baden-Powell Girl Guides; units 1–3.
1911	Baden-Powell Girl Guides, 1st Hawthorn. All disbanded during World War I.
From 1917 to 1921	About seven separate companies registered in London. State Organisation Girl Guides Association. Lady Stradbroke, State Commissioner.
1923	FIRST AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE.
1926	FEDERAL COUNCIL.

CHAPTER 11

SPREADING THROUGH THE NATION
WE ARE ALL HERE!

By 1922 the foundations had been laid, and as shown in the summary, each State had either set up or re-organised a Girl Guides' Association on standard lines, as a branch of the Imperial Girl Guides Association. It did not all happen easily, nor was the Movement approved everywhere without question.

In Sydney, when Dame Margaret Davidson arranged a meeting (1920) the ladies present decided that Guiding was not needed in Australia because girls had enough opportunity to be out-of-doors already. An eloquent protest to the press came from Miss Nella Levy, who had been a patrol leader in England. She accepted Dame Margaret's request to become organising commissioner, and supporters made themselves known. Miss Levy recruited volunteers for training, travelling far and wide to encourage companies and enrol Guides.

In September, 1921, at a ceremony at Government House, Dame Margaret enrolled 26 Guiders who had assembled from cities and from the country where many of them had companies in full swing; a few others were unable to be present.

The next year 70 Guiders were enrolled in time for the first State Rally and demonstration at the Sydney Showground. The rush for uniforms had cleared out stock, but relief came; some belts arrived from England just in time to be handed to Guides as they marched into the Showground. Dairymaids milked, cobblers cobbled (heels while you wait), horsewomen rode on the arena. The variety was extraordinary. Thousands of visitors were excited and impressed. (See "The Waratah": December 1974).

STEADY PROGRESS

In each State all sections duly swung into action. Brownies in considerable numbers increased steadily as soon as leaders could be found for them. The leader was called Brown Owl, the assistant, Tawny Owl.

Rangers were later and came more slowly.

Lones were organised as soon as possible as they were needed especially through the country. The Lone Section is Guiding by correspondence, for those who live too far away to attend meetings.

Australia now also has 'Lones of the Air' through the radio communication of the Flying Doctor Service. At the 'meeting time' the leader tunes in to Guides or Brownies 'present' at their transceivers, who may be living hundreds of miles apart through the Outback.

The Extension Section 'extends' Guiding to girls who through some disability need a special type of challenge to carry out the Guide Promise and to realise their own full ability.

Often the first rumour of 'Guides' brought an eager rush; remember Perth 1915 and Camberwell 1917? A few among many were Geelong, Victoria, Hermitage Girls School, 99, 1921: Mosman, New South Wales, 88, about the same time.

Guiders everywhere were coping with new situations cropping up.

'When a Guide asked a question I could not answer, I would say: "See what you can find out about it for yourself during the week." – and I would set off at top speed for the Officers' training class.'

(Mrs. E. Relton, New South Wales.)

A teacher in Gippsland, Victoria, saw one copy of *Girl Guiding* that had come from England. She copied out the whole book by hand so that she could take it to another district.

Country children rode their ponies to their small bush schools so 1st Wannon (Victoria) was a mounted company. They had a golden banner charged with a prancing black horse. It was carried with the butt of the pole on the stirrup of the bearer.

At one school assembly in New South Wales the Headmistress introduced a guest who would tell the girls of something quite new that she was sure would interest them. 'The girls' could hardly suppress giggles when they realized that some of them already knew more about Girl Guides than their visitor.

ORGANISATION

As each State Association was a branch, Imperial Council appointed each State Commissioner who became an *ex-officio* member of the Council. Usually the wife of the State Governor was invited to accept the position, and as Their Excellencies, at this time, were always from Britain, their ladies often already had experience of Guiding. They could readily keep in contact with London and with one another.

Our first State Commissioners were a strong influence in promoting and steering the Movement during the early years and often took part in practical Guiding occasions. As the Movement expanded, executive office made undue demands on their time for any one special Association; so leadership as presidents could become more suitable.

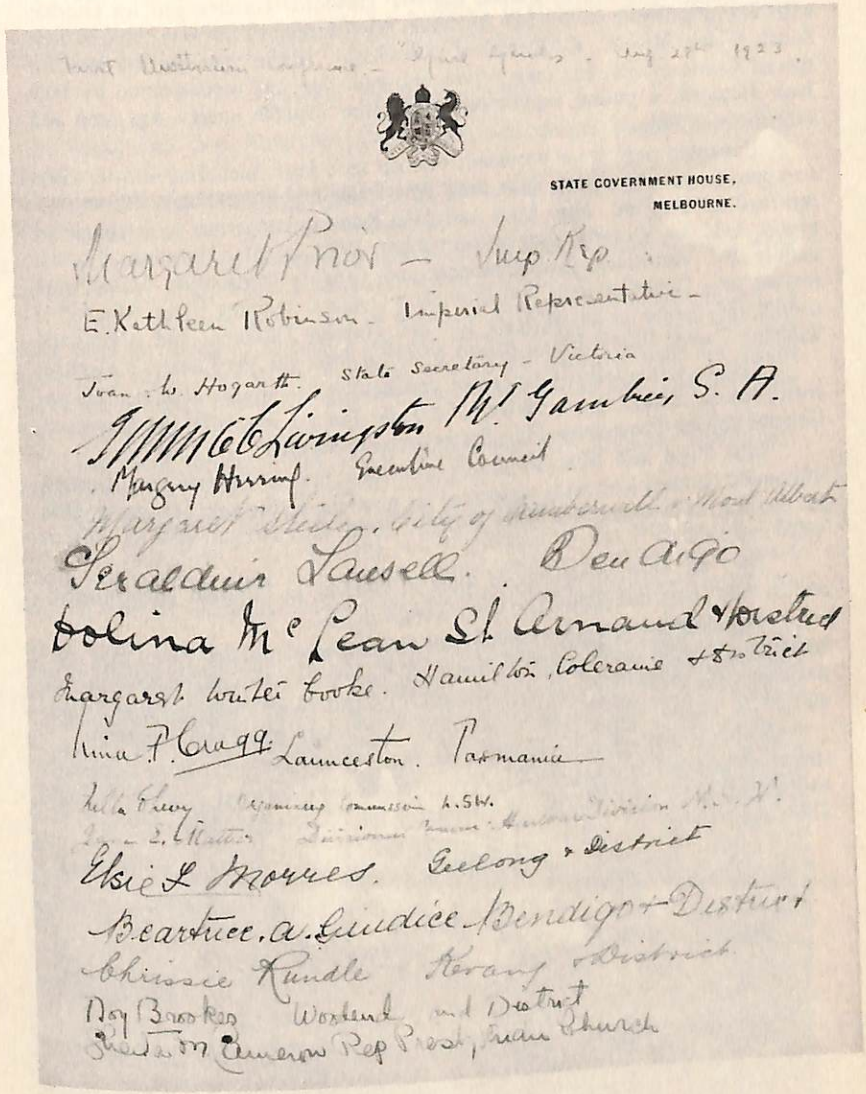
THE INTEREST OF THE CHURCHES

The partnership of the churches has, from the first been a strong support and influence on both the Girl Guide and Boy Scout Movements. Some denominations appointed members as liaison with the Association to encourage units, usually open to all, within their own youth groups. Many hundreds of local churches allowed district units to use their halls free of expense long before special Guide halls were even a remote possibility. They supported their own members in forming units and arranged company church parades or combined services.

CO-OPERATION

The Girls' Friendly Society encouraged Guide companies, and with the Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.), Salvation Army, and other societies, joined in friendly and practical co-operation.

PRESENT AT THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE



SHARING EXPERIENCE

1922

At the invitation of States, Imperial Headquarters arranged for Guiders with Training Diplomas to visit Australia. Miss Margaret Prior was based in New South Wales, Miss E. K. Robinson in Victoria. 'Robin' brought the idea for special Guide names; her own suited her well. She was accompanied by Miss Joan Hogarth, a young captain-camper, whose capable energy was used and valued to the full.

Expenses only were provided. For up to a year, including shorter visits to other States, the visitors gave their time freely and unstintingly. Before they returned to England, Miss Prior and Miss Robinson together took charge of events held in Victoria, August-September 1923, at Mt. Macedon. Though mainly for Victorians, Commissioners and Guiders from other States were invited to a Commissioners' Conference, a Guiders' Training Week, where two candidates passed practical tests for the Training Diploma, and a Guiders' Training Camp, where several passed practical tests for the Camper's Licence.

The first Australian Conference was held in Melbourne at State Government House, Stonnington, Malvern, as Lady Forster was with the Governor-General visiting Queensland. Four States were represented.

Miss Prior and Miss Robinson were the first of several distinguished diploma'd Guiders who were welcomed to Australia in the next few years: Miss M. Shanks, 1925-1926; Miss Alice Behrens, 1926; Miss Pitman; Miss M. Wilson, 1928 and 1932.

They all were interested to share in Guiding in different environments and to adapt practical Guiding to various ways of life.

One definite purpose was to qualify Australian Guiders to receive the Imperial Training Diplomas. The Imperial Headquarters award carried international status, the opportunity for exchange visits with other countries, and authorised support for Guiding in territories where help might be needed.

With experience, adaptability and vision our visitors confirmed general standards and brought confidence that the Guide Movement is wide enough to include, and is enriched by, great variety of detail within the unity of the Threefold Promise.

Their influence is remembered with grateful comradeship.

CHAPTER 12

THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Girl Guides Association of Australia has grown gradually from a FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

FIRST WORLD CAMP

Recall the first Australian Conference, Melbourne; August/September 1923?

At that very time, in England Lady Baden-Powell was planning the first 'World' happening for the Guides themselves.

Six girls and one leader from every Girl Guide/Girl Scout country were invited to camp with British Guides at Foxlease in July 1924.

Only Australians who would be already travelling could be nominated, as there were no funds to finance a four-five weeks voyage by sea each way but fortunately many were abroad that year, and as some countries could not accept for all or for any, twelve Guiders and three Guides from Australia were able to attend.

The camp opened with 1,100 divided between 30 group camps. Six hundred from overseas represented 40 countries.

Commissioners assembled in Princess Mary House.

The invitation for Australians put a spotlight on the problem of completely independent State Associations. Tasmania wrote to all the other States, making a strong recommendation that a Federal Council should be constituted.

Australians at World Camp, 1924, with Chief Guide. Miss Robinson, left of middle row, is wearing the Silver Fish awarded to her for her service in Australia. Miss Elsie Smith (N.S.W.) is second from left in back row. May Graham (Manly) third Guide on right, in front row.

So some States were able to instruct their Guiders to vote in favour if the matter were discussed in England, as they knew that the Chief Guide herself and the Imperial Council were interested.

AT FOXLEASE: AUSTRALIA SESSION

The twelve Australian Guiders were from five States, and Miss E. K. Robinson was asked to represent Victoria. She was a great help to the group as liaison hostess.

A kookaburra stood on the totem pole of the tent she shared with Miss D. Allnutt of South Australia. Carved in wood and beautifully coloured, he had travelled in the 'secrets box' that friends had packed with a surprise for every evening of her voyage home. Now he could look over the fields of Foxlease and many new friends could look at him.

On July 19th the Australian Guiders met as a formal committee, to 'discuss the advisability of suggesting to the various councils "that a Federal Council be formed" and any other questions that might be brought up.'

Mrs. Macartney, State Commissioner of Queensland, was voted to the chair by all present, and Miss M. Bayes, of New South Wales, was appointed Secretary.

Others present were:

Miss Grimes, Miss Andrews	Queensland
Mrs. Clark	South Australia
Miss Cragg, Miss Chancelton	Tasmania
Miss Robinson	Victoria
Miss Law	Western Australia
Miss M. Maher, Miss B. Muller, Miss E. Smith	N.S.W.

(Quotations are condensed from the report.)

After discussion the proposal was carried;

'1. It is suggested that a Federal Council for the Girl Guides of Australia should be formed, and should consist of two members from each State.

2. That they should meet annually in April in each State in turn.

3. If formed, the work of this Council should be to back up the Movement generally, by securing protection for uniform, badges, etc. and abolition of custom duties on all Guide goods.

4. To unite the States by hearing reports of Guiding from each State.

5. To act in an advisory capacity when desired.

6. It would not control the local State policy.

In consultation with the Chief Guide afterwards, who regretted that she had been inadvertently detained from the former meetings, and who heartily approved the formation of a Federal Council from the view point of Imperial Headquarters, the advisability of the formation of a London-Australian Association on the lines of the London-South African Association was discussed, and the representatives present approved the formation of the Association.

The Chief Guide undertook to help form the Association and suggested names of ladies who she thought would be only too pleased to help Australian Guiding in every way from London.

The objects of the Association are to be threefold:

(1) To act as a connecting link between the various States and London. In this connection it is proposed that each State shall have a corresponding member. Chairman and Secretary will also represent it on the Imperial Council.

(2) To get in touch with English Guides who are going to Australia, and with Australian Guides who are coming to England, to help them in any way desired.

(3) To be responsible that the latest literature, text books etc. of the Movement are supplied to the States.

The Representatives of Australia at Foxlease feel that such a body in London would be the greatest benefit to Guiding in Australia, and would be most grateful if the various Councils would endorse their opinion, and give the London-Australian Association their warmest approval and support.

The meeting then ended, the Secretary being requested to hand a report of the Conference to a Representative of each State for transmittance to their respective Councils.

(Signed) *Maud Eveline Bayes.*'

LONDON-AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION and FEDERAL COUNCIL 1924 – 1926

The State Councils readily confirmed and took their part in the London-Australian Association, but for two years longer they gave serious consideration to Federal Council. The leaders of the Movement were firm that administration should be simple, flexible, and in close touch with the units; and that overhead expenses should be kept as low as possible, so that all resources would be used directly for the Guides.

In the meantime events built up towards a decision:

The first Interstate Camp; a visit by Miss Alice Behrens to all States; in the United States of America, the fourth World Conference, attended by Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn; and all through Australia, thousands more members.

Lord Forster, as his term ended, was succeeded by Lord Stonehaven as Governor-General.

In England, Lady Forster became a member of the Imperial Council – renamed Overseas Committee – and President of the London-Australian Association; a gracious hostess and support to travellers always, where her experience was most valuable.

INTERSTATE CAMP

January 8-16, 1926

Towards the end of Miss Shanks' visit, New South Wales was hostess to the first camp with Guides from all Australia and New Zealand.

Commandant ..... Miss M. Shanks
Assistant Commandant ..... Miss Merle Bush, of Victoria, Blue Cord Diploma
Visitor from England ..... Lady Marjorie Dalrymple, of the London-Australian Association.

From every State and New Zealand six Guiders and six Guides were invited to Camden, near the historic home of the Macarthur-Onslow family, pioneers in breeding merino sheep. Miss Hawthorn asked that as 'Queensland' would have to arrive a little late, would others be so kind as to cut their tent poles for them with their own.

For the sophisticated South, where tentpoles were ordered from a timber yard, this was a vision of real bush camping, with frame tents fettler style. But the trees at Camden were more than saplings. A snapshot labelled 'Hawthorn's Tentpoles" shows Queensland's secretary and friends, gazing up at lowest branches high above their heads.

January 8th

'Motor lorries crammed with Tasmanians, Queenslanders, South and Western Australians, and a few late Sydney arrivals, made progress campwards.

'A more perfect spot for such a ceremony as campfire it would be difficult to imagine. Up to the ring of trees the bush crept from the water's edge, not dense but ragged; inhabited by hundreds of birds . . . Merrily went the singing that night. In spite of travel weariness one felt the thrill of a United Australia — united in the hope of building strong foundations of Empire and of world-wide fellowship.'

Though once a fire came near enough to cause considerable anxiety, the week was for all a memorable experience — filled with swimming sports, competitions and displays, camp-training and tests for licences, and campfire comradeship.

'Lady Marjorie Dalrymple's accounts of Guiding in Borneo and in different parts of the world helped more than ever in the realisation of the power of the Movement for good, and also of the great difficulties that are so cheerfully undertaken by many Guiders in lands other than our own. Thanks were given at the last Campfire to New South Wales for the hospitality accorded by her to the other states and New Zealand. The New Zealanders supplied a novel item by expressing their thanks in Maori, ending with a dance and singing:— "For they are jolly good fellows" in Maori.

'And to that gathering of Guides, representing six States and a Dominion, the Commandant spoke of our Sisterhood, and gave us a vision of how our Garden of Guiding must be laid out — not in little hedged-in plots in which we play alone, but in a broad landscape where we may all share the joy of its beauty and peace. And each one who walked thoughtfully away from that last Circle must have felt that at such a Campfire does one's torch kindle afresh, and give one a new zeal for service.'

(Adapted from an account by Miss Marion Sinclair, of 1st Malvern, Toorak College Company from 1921: Blue Cord Diploma, musician and poetess — see later 'Kookaburra'.)

Many of the 'Camden' campers became outstanding leaders in the Guide Movement. Other interstate camps followed about every second year.

MISS BEHRENS' VISIT

In this same year of the fourth World Conference, Miss Behrens made a long tour to meet Guides in their own countries and spent several months visiting every State in Australia. She represented the Imperial Girl Guides Association through a strenuous programme of trainings and conferences as opinions towards a Federal Council were strengthening.

FEDERAL COUNCIL

In November, 1926, Her Excellency Lady Stonehaven invited delegates from every State to Federal Government House in Melbourne. Miss Behrens represented Imperial Headquarters, and, by proxy, Queensland and South Australia whom she had consulted. The South Australian representative had been detained by a tragic family accident.

The proposal to form a Federal Council for the Girl Guides of Australia was carried unanimously. A draft Constitution was adopted with credit to the States who had done good 'homework'. Her Excellency accepted the invitation to be president. The Council would meet every second year, but next in 1927, to ratify the Constitution if accepted by the States. Professor Sir William Harrison Moore was Honorary Legal Adviser.

The members of the Council would be the State Commissioners, and one other delegate from each State. Between the meetings each State in turn would act as Federal Headquarters with the State Commissioner Executive Vice-President; appoint a Federal Secretary, and provide secretarial work that might be needed.

The first were: Victoria, Secretary Mrs. Norman Brookes, (later Dame Mabel): Western Australia, Secretary Mrs. R. T. Robinson: New South Wales, Secretary Miss Kelso King: Victoria, Secretary Miss G. Swinburne, (part term). The documents were passed from State to State in one suitcase. Finance: £2.2.0 ($4.50) a year from each State to cover expenses, with extra contributions for emergencies, and special occasions.

The Federal Council was the basis of a forward phase of Guiding in Australia and of our place in the World Association. The purpose of the Federal Council was to co-ordinate affairs of interest to all States, to approach Government to register badges, to gain concessions for fares and for other matters. Through the council Australia gained national status in relations with other countries, the ability to appoint delegates to world events, and to share in the creation of the World Association. Now there could be one channel of correspondence with Imperial Headquarters (who generously agreed to send eight copies of lengthy documents) and with other national associations for Thinking Day Greetings, Post Box, invitations, for example, but each State could correspond separately if necessary.

'UNIFORM' began to emerge. South Australia had worn khaki for a time; New South Wales Guiders wore white collars over their navy blue; Queensland

adapted hats to the climate; – and with agreement from time to time 'uniform' kept on emerging.

Problems remained, of course. For instance communication between Perth and Brisbane could take six days, and travel was expensive, but doubts were freely discussed and the principles were affirmed that resources should be used directly in the interests of the young people, with overhead expenses as low as possible, and that Guiding should be flexible to suit different conditions throughout the continent.

So the Federal Council was advisory only. The Council could agree on adapting tests – flag, snakebite, fire precautions and so on, but all proposals would be referred to State Executives for confirmation. Miss Hawthorn wrote later, from Queensland – 'There was certainly enthusiasm, but at the same time trepidation . . . we still felt that we were very much on the end of the limb at one stage, and were apprehensive that Victoria and New South Wales would have all the say and perhaps out-vote us . . . After the first Federal Council meeting, we all realised that we profited greatly by the discussions – the whole situation altered . . . Especially was this so after the delegates attended the second meeting . . . Apprehension vanished . . . as we found the more experienced States met us with equal recognition and were concerned to understand special conditions and allow for them . . .'

When the World Association was proposed the same kind of doubts were raised with genuine concern; and were overcome in the same way, by generous good will and understanding friendship.

The Constitution of the Federal Council was confirmed by all States, November 1927, in Melbourne, and the next meeting planned to coincide with the second Interstate Camp, near Frankston, Victoria, in the summer of 1929-1930. So Australia had the opportunity to formulate a common policy and make recommendations to the next World Conference.

To commemorate their appreciation of Miss Behrens' visit, New South Wales endowed a room at Waddow Hall, the new Training Centre in her own County, Lancashire. They sent rugs of kangaroo skin, curtains with waratah design, models of a koala and a kookaburra, and a picture of Sydney Harbour. It is always greatly admired.

Training for Guiders developed. Federal Council organised award of Australian Training Certificate (1931) and within the States, Campers' Licence. Award for Training Diploma and Camp Adviser remained with Imperial Headquarters, tested either in Australia or in Britain.

CHAPTER 13

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

The climax of the Federal Council might be called 'the end of the beginning' for Guiding in Australia.

The first State Headquarters were perhaps a single room, with an extra cupboard if one were fortunate, a space partitioned in a hall, or a desk or boxes in the home of the Secretary. (See Exploring, Acknowledgements.)

During the middle 'twenties' States began to acquire regular central offices, with equipment depots, and to appoint professional secretaries who are remembered for their great contribution through years of dedicated service. They met most varied situations as numbers soared. Enrolled members for Australia – 1924: 6,000; 1927: 16,925.

1927

New South Wales	4,640
Queensland	2,162
South Australia	2,242
Victoria	5,649
Western Australia	1,165
Tasmania	1,057
	16,925

Magazines were started or enlarged, State badges chosen.

GAPS IN THE MAP BEGAN TO FILL

Companies for aboriginal girls were established at Yarrabah in Queensland in 1924, and at Point Pearce Mission, South Australia in 1930.

1927 saw the opening of the first group of Guides and Rangers in Papua New Guinea by Mrs. Chatterton, wife of a London Missionary Society clergyman at Hanuabada. This and later groups formed at Hula and Delena were variously registered with New South Wales and Queensland Headquarters.

Looking further on, there were companies in Nauru, Northern Territory, Norfolk Island, Christmas Island, Cocos Island.

Miss Hawthorn of Queensland made a journey through Northern Queensland, and in small boats, through rough seas to some islands in the Torres Straits to interest mission stations. Guiding in each Territory was attached for administration to the State with most convenient contact.

1926 **FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY**
(The first name used: now AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY)
CANBERRA

When the Federal Government was by stages transferring from Melbourne Jessica Finlay, a patrol leader at Bondi, New South Wales, went to Canberra with her brother who was a doctor. She gathered a group of Guides, and registered as a Lone Patrol with New South Wales.

During preparations for the visit of the Duke of York (later King George VI) to open Parliament House, Jessica heard that the Boy Scouts would attend, and she herself asked permission for the Guides. With great efforts they were all in uniform to march into their place for the ceremony.

Demonstrating camp furniture at a charity fete, the Guides caught the interest of Mrs. Tillyard, a Guider from England and New Zealand. Finding they had no Local Association, she spoke to Lady Somers, State Commissioner for Victoria, who was then in Canberra, as Lord Somers, Governor of Victoria, was Administrator while Lord Stonehaven was on leave.

At a meeting at Government House, Yarralumla, a Local Association was formed and a Commissioner appointed. Through the influence of Lady Somers, Federal Capital Territory became a Division of New South Wales, rather than of Victoria, which had been proposed because so many had moved to Canberra from Melbourne, the temporary Federal Capital. Guides wore the flash, F.C.T. below the State badge of New South Wales, the waratah.

Mrs. Tillyard lived to be over ninety, and almost until the last interviewed Guides about the early years. Her records, and some beautiful record books by others in Canberra, are most valuable possessions.

When Sir Isaac Isaacs became Governor-General, the first Australian citizen to hold that position, Lady Isaacs accepted the invitation to become President of Girl Guides, Australia.

Their Excellencies were the first to live for their whole term at Yarralumla, Canberra, so the companies were a personal contact with Guiding, in which the president was greatly interested. She presented a flag, and at the end of her term invited all to a party at Government House, to receive a collection of books as a farewell gift.

CHAPTER 14

WIDER STILL

The fourth International Assembly, 1926, the first outside Britain, was held by invitation of the United States of America at their Conference Centre, Camp Edith Macey.

Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn represented Australia.

Here THINKING DAY was planned:

'On February 22nd each year, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world would celebrate the joint birthday of Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell by THINKING of one another. Delegates also discussed the increasing need for some definite organisation to "hold together the national associations and establish a common policy for Guiding all over the world" – to the point of encouraging the national associations to express opinions before the next World Conference.'

(From *The Story of the Girl Guides,* by Mrs. Mark Kerr.)

After two years of great activity, the fifth World Conference assembled at Praad, in Hungary, where Miss D. Gaggin, of Tasmania, represented Australia. There the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts was founded as an established organisation. Australia was one of the 28 Foundation Members.

Guiding was far more widespread throughout the world than the number 28 suggests because so many colonies and small settlements were represented by the larger countries of Europe – (see Chapter 1).

At Praad a draft Constitution was drawn up. A World Conference should be held every two years (now three). A World Committee was appointed to carry on affairs between conferences. Dame Katherine Furse was appointed Director of the World Bureau, which was to be the permanent secretariat. Finance would be provided by annual contributions from Member Countries, assessed from time to time on the basis of membership.

Associations in other countries would be encouraged to join the World Association and terms of membership were agreed.

Where the Roman Catholic Church, or Associations such as the Y.W.C.A. already had their own section for Guiding, a joint council was formed to apply for World membership as one nation. The National Association must be independent of control by any one political party; membership must be voluntary, and open to every girl who was willing to make the three-fold Promise, "no matter to what creed, country or class she might belong" – though not necessarily in the same unit.

If an enrolment badge had already been chosen – as a star in the Netherlands, and a torch in Sweden – the countries concerned were asked to consider changing to a Trefoil badge, with, if they wished, their special symbol as part of the design.

CHIEF GUIDE OF THE WORLD

The Constitution of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts was confirmed at the World Conference in 1930 in England, at Foxlease. Mrs. E. H. Macartney (later Lady Macartney), State Commissioner of Queensland, represented Australia.

Lady Baden-Powell was acclaimed Chief Guide of the World.

New members were welcomed as numbers increased steadily, and the Thinking Day Fund was started. On February 22nd each year every Guide who could do so would bring 'a penny with her thoughts' to help Guides in smaller countries where the Movement was just beginning, or for some urgent project.

Cents by the million add up!

A World Flag was proposed by South Africa and in due course, a design by Norway was chosen.

For the next meeting, 1932, the Conference accepted the invitation of Poland.

POLAND

Poland had been an independent kingdom with long traditions. About the time of the French Revolution, Russia, Prussia and Austria, fighting as allies, conquered the country against a brave resistance, and divided her territory between themselves. Have you wondered why some places in Australia have Polish names? Kosciusko was the hero-leader in the fight for freedom of Poland. Defeated and taken prisoner in 1794, he was allowed to live in exile in the U.S.A.

Count Strezlecki was a scientist of Poland who studied in England and with some friends came to Australia in the late 1830's. He led exploring parties through our South Eastern ranges, and the name of our highest mountain honours the hero of his nation. He explored also in Tasmania and in Gippsland, where mountains bear his own name.

LOYAL PIONEERS

From the first years of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Andrej and Olga Malkowska pioneered and led the movements in Poland; often 'underground' in danger of beating or prison, but many joined.

With the end of the first World War, after 130 years of partition and foreign rule, Poland was restored as a united republic, with her people enthusiastically determined to build the nation anew, and the Girl Guide Association of Poland became a foundation member of our World Association.

Note: From 1939, during and after the Second World War, the condition of Poland has changed.

OUR CHALET: WORLD CENTRE

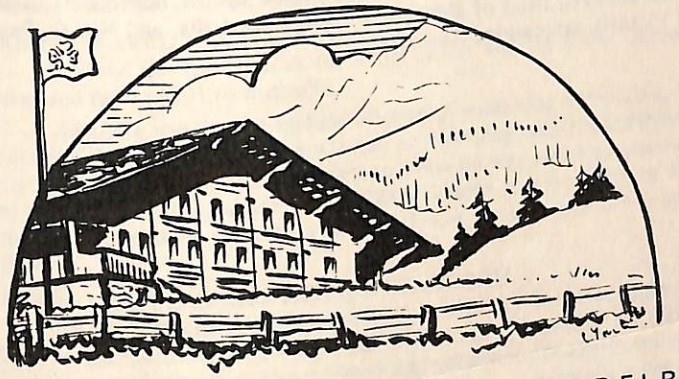
1932

High up, high on the Mountain we founded 'Our Chalet'. . .

Mrs. J. Storrow, of the United States of America, presented a chalet in Switzerland, near Adelboden, to be a World Centre, managed by the World Committee.

Fraulein von Herreschwand – 'Falk, the mountain deer' – took a leading part in the preparations, and was the first Guider-in-Charge.

Australia sent sheepskin rugs, to be used for campfire on the mountain-side, but they were so much admired they have been used in the dormitory as well.



Our
Notre Chalet
Unser

ADELBODEN

And this, its dedication shall never fail nor be undone.
Each race, each creed, each nation within its walls are one.

The Chief Scout and dignitaries of Switzerland attended the opening celebrations; a truly 'World' occasion, immediately before the World Conference of August 1932, so that the Chief Guide and delegates could travel directly on to Poland.

ACTION Learn all the words of 'the Chalet Song'.

WORLD CONFERENCE 1932

When the overnight train crossed the border and pulled in to Katowicje, the platform was crowded with Girl Guides of Poland in their grey uniforms and ties of peasant weave. Leading officials were waiting to present the formal welcome.

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For the next meeting, 1932, the Conference accepted the invitation of Poland.

POLAND

Poland had been an independent kingdom with long traditions. About the time of the French Revolution, Russia, Prussia and Austria, fighting as allies, conquered the country against a brave resistance, and divided her territory between themselves. Have you wondered why some places in Australia have Polish names? Kosciusko was the hero-leader in the fight for freedom of Poland. Defeated and taken prisoner in 1794, he was allowed to live in exile in the U.S.A.

Count Strezlecki was a scientist of Poland who studied in England and with some friends came to Australia in the late 1830's. He led exploring parties through our South Eastern ranges, and the name of our highest mountain honours the hero of his nation. He explored also in Tasmania and in Gippsland, where mountains bear his own name.

LOYAL PIONEERS

From the first years of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Andrej and Olga Malkowska pioneered and led the movements in Poland; often 'underground' in danger of beating or prison, but many joined.

With the end of the first World War, after 130 years of partition and foreign rule, Poland was restored as a united republic, with her people enthusiastically determined to build the nation anew, and the Girl Guide Association of Poland became a foundation member of our World Association.

Note: From 1939, during and after the Second World War, the condition of Poland has changed.

OUR CHALET: WORLD CENTRE

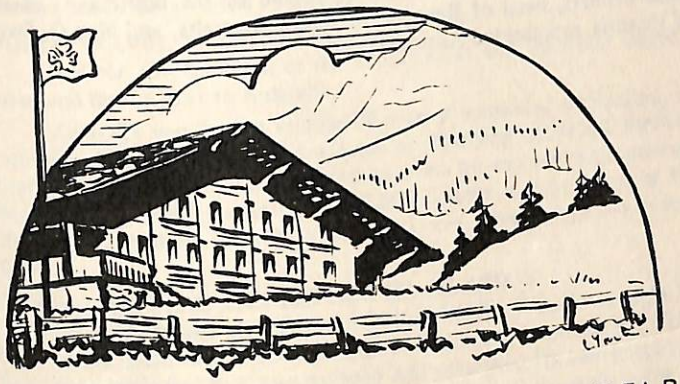
1932

High up, high on the Mountain we founded 'Our Chalet'. . .

Mrs. J. Storrow, of the United States of America, presented a chalet in Switzerland, near Adelboden, to be a World Centre, managed by the World Committee.

Fraulein von Herreschwand – 'Falk, the mountain deer' – took a leading part in the preparations, and was the first Guider-in-Charge.

Australia sent sheepskin rugs, to be used for campfire on the mountain-side, but they were so much admired they have been used in the dormitory as well.



Our
Notre Chalet ADELBODEN
Unser

And this, its dedication shall never fail nor be undone.
Each race, each creed, each nation within its walls are one.

The Chief Scout and dignitaries of Switzerland attended the opening celebrations; a truly 'World' occasion, immediately before the World Conference of August 1932, so that the Chief Guide and delegates could travel directly on to Poland.

ACTION Learn all the words of 'the Chalet Song'.

WORLD CONFERENCE 1932

When the overnight train crossed the border and pulled in to Katowicje, the platform was crowded with Girl Guides of Poland in their grey uniforms and ties of peasant weave. Leading officials were waiting to present the formal welcome.

As the Chief Guide appeared in a doorway, a large World Flag was paraded for the first time to a 'World' gathering; a band in gorgeous uniforms was playing our first World Song.

'Our noble Standard, the Golden Trefoil,
We'll proudly raise to heaven above.
We'll face the future with joy and courage,
And build a new world with our love.'

Chorus of English version.

The World Song was a gift from Poland; ready in several translations. With the flag, and with the band still playing, we all walked along the street to breakfast.

The conference was held in the hills near Krakow, at a Training Centre that had been presented to the Scouts of Poland by the Boy Scouts of the U.S.A. Miss Bennett, head of Rangers for South Australia, and Miss G. Swinburne, of Victoria, represented Australia.

CHAPTER 15

'THE CHIEFS' AND THE WORLD

1929

COMING OF AGE JAMBOREE. LORD BADEN-POWELL OF GILWELL

To celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of *Scouting for Boys*, a huge Jamboree was held at Arrowe Park, Cheshire, England for 50,000 boys from 42 countries.

The Girl Guides of Cheshire were responsible for the hospital for the whole Jamboree, organised most efficiently in tents and marquees.

King George V conferred a peerage on the Chief Scout of the World with the title he chose himself from the name of the principal Boy Scout Training Centre; Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

WORLD TRAVELS: AUSTRALIA

Between the Conferences the Chief Scout and the Chief Guide travelled often and far: in 1931 to Australia.

Australia was in the middle of a great economic depression, so serious consideration was given to the wisdom of financing rallies and services to celebrate the Chiefs' visit. The decision to press on was met with enthusiasm and sucess far beyond expectation. As 7,000 Guides marched past in Melbourne, the Chief exclaimed 'Twenty years ago I saw three companies – look at you now'.

A CENOTAPH FLAG AND THE NEW STANDARD

By arrangement with the authorities, the Chief Guide brought with her a blue ensign from the War Memorial, in Whitehall, London, the CENOTAPH. Each year, each flag that was replaced was presented for safe-keeping to a loyal trustworthy society, and in 1931 the Girl Guides of Australia were chosen for the privilege.

The new Standard for the Chief Guide of the World accompanied her, and both Cenotaph Flag and Standard were paraded by colour parties at the State rallies.

When the Standard travelled on, the Cenotaph Flag remained, in charge of each State in turn for a period, finally in Canberra.

DESIGN OF LADY BADEN-POWELL'S STANDARD.

The Chief Scout wrote in his report: 'Both Australia and New Zealand are in a bad way: it will require exceptional industry and sense of duty in the coming generation to get them back to prosperity . . . Scouting is in one sense a game – but a game with a deeper purpose; and vast possibilities underlie the training in manliness namely, a higher grade of character and citizenship in the next entry of young men for the nation.'

Before the Chief Scout came again, enrolled Guides in Australia were 29,000.

BRICKS FOR THE HOUSE THE GUIDES BUILT! or a window or a door . . .

This slogan on a picture poster raised funds for Imperial Headquarters, London, and Australia sent £2,000 (four thousand dollars) for a committee room to be panelled with our native timber if possible. The fine new building in Buckingham Palace Road was declared open by Queen Mary.

1934-35 JAMBOREE
THE CENTENARY OF THE STATE OF VICTORIA

Lord and Lady Baden-Powell planned their next visit to Australia to attend the Jamboree held at Frankston, Victoria, as part of the celebrations for the centenary of the State.

Their daughters, Heather and Betty, nineteen and seventeen, travelled with them as secretaries. Baden-Powell letters were personal and individual whenever possible. At Frankston, Heather and Betty dealt with 40 in one afternoon.

They came into Australia from the north, on the steamer 'Marella', so were able to meet Scouts and Guides at Darwin, Guides at a mission station on Thursday Island, and at various places down the coast.

At Brisbane, during a rally in Anzac Square, the Chief Guide wished to award the Silver Fish to Lady Macartney. As the emblem had not arrived, she took off her own insignia for the moment, amid great applause, to invest the State Commissioner. Said one Brownie: 'I do hope she has another at home for herself!'

The Baden-Powell family arrived at Frankston in the last week of December, 1934, to a cottage overlooking the site where Scouts from all Australia and groups from some other countries were already settling in – in 'Chief's weather', one might note: remember the Crystal Palace?

The Girl Guides Association was responsible for the hospital.

During one storm Guiders had to sit on the guy ropes for hours to keep the tentpegs in the ground. The marquee stayed up and the big tents, too.

A Guider and Guides from a mounted company had charge of the horses provided for the Chief Scout and his family.

And this time Australia had its own song ready. 'Kookaburra' – was sung *en masse* for the first time at this Jamboree. (see Appendix)

Kookaburra sits on an old gum-tree,
Merry, merry king of the Bush is he;
Laugh, Kookaburra, laugh, Kookaburrra,
Gay your life must be.

The round is sung three times in parts, then everyone together breaks into the Kookaburra 'laugh' – *ad lib* with variations. A surprise, surely for the Scouts from overseas, and perhaps for real 'Jackies' trying to sleep in the bush. It was the start of long journeys for 'Kookaburra'. Australians when travelling are often asked to sing and teach the round, so BE PREPARED.

After Guides' Day, on their 'special' from Frankston, a whole trainload started up the song. Miss Marion Sinclair was amused; few realised that the composer was among them. (see Appendix)

GUIDES WITH IT

For their part in the celebrations, the Association of Victoria invited Guides from all other States and New Zealand to indoor camps with their own country members and arranged a week's programme for all.

Schools and church halls near Melbourne were generously made available.

From the U.S.A. Mrs. Storrow, who had presented "Our Chalet", was a distinguished visitor.

"Guides' Day' at the Scout Jamboree was hot. Thousands marched past the Chiefs on full parade with colours; Victoria presented a living tableau of the products of the State.

The day for the Guide display at Flemington was wet.

Each State had prepared an item for an historical pageant and some valuable, genuine pioneer costumes had been brought; but all had to be cancelled. The Guides' Own Service in Melbourne Town Hall was an inspiring climax.

ACTION What products would you choose to display and what item would you choose for an historical pageant? Ask some people each to make a list and compare.

ACTION Draw four outlines of Australia.
Choose the date of a year for each and indicate –
(a) where Baden-Powell Girls were active.
(b) how many can be estimated.

AUSTRALIA had seen The Founder for the last time.

Lord and Lady Baden-Powell spent the last few years of his life at their home in Kenya.

Always in touch, from there the Chief Scout wrote his last message to the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the world.

His message to his 'Dear Scouts' concludes with the words:

> *The real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try to leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time, but have done your best. 'Be Prepared' in this way to live happy and to die happy. Stick to your Scout Promise always, even after you have ceased to be a boy, and God help you do it.*
>
> *Your friend,*
> *Baden-Powell of Gilwell.*

'B.-P.' died in January 1941.

A memorial is in Westminster Abbey, London.

APPENDIX

KOOKABURRA

During 1934 the Victorian Association had proclaimed a competition 'for an Australian Round; to be judged by Dr. A. E. Floyd, then organist at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Melbourne, and a loved and respected musical authority far beyond the State.'

The winner was 'Kookaburra' by Miss Marion Sinclair. She has written the story of her attempts and sudden inspiration for *Our Magazine* issued by the Helping Hand, Adelaide.

After the Jamboree near Frankston 'it was carried back to the countries concerned happily sung in many languages'.

A friend comments:

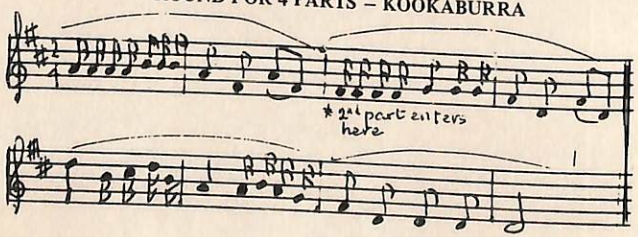
> ' "Kookaburra" sung by the Marryatville High School treble choir and followed by Miss Sinclair herself telling something of the Kookaburra story was on air on two ABC radio stations, a couple of days after her eightieth birthday.
>
> 'So little Kookaburra is still winging his way around Australia.
>
> 'I first met him singing in Afrikaans in South Africa; Canada, India, America, Japan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Germany, Holland, France, The Baltic countries – all these countries, I find know Kookaburra too.
>
> 'In fact, not only the works of the great masters travel the world in many languages.'

ACTION 'Spot' all these countries on a map of the world.

The round was published in the first World book of songs issued by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Extra verses are written for different countries and occasions, and sound effects invented. As:–

Kookaburra's tree of wide renown,
Isn't any longer near our town;
Why, Kookaburra? Why, Kookaburra?
Someone cut it down.

For Conservation Day.
Sound effects *ad lib.*
Would Kookaburra 'laugh' too?

ROUND FOR 4 PARTS – KOOKABURRA